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PART XL.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

86

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XL.

No. 1.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by the German Chargé d'Affaires, August 1, 1879.

(Translation.)

THE principle of the equality of religious rights must be admitted and clearly expressed in the Constitution. At the same time, executory laws are to be voted, which guarantee the serious determination of the Roumanian Government and national representatives to carry the principle into practice too. These laws must at all events—

(*a.*) Secure to foreign subjects in Roumania immediately equality of position before the law, independent of their religious creed.

(*b.*) Establish, to a sufficient extent, for the Roumanian Israelites their immediate accession to the enjoyment of civil and political rights; finally,

(*c.*) Contain a satisfactory scheme for the gradual admission of the rest of the Israelites in Roumania.

No. 2.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 589. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 31, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. [? 191], I have requested Admiral Hornby to go to Lemnos until further orders. I think it desirable that I should be authorized to tell him to come to Besika Bay should the Sultan not perform his promises to me as to the reforms. It is chiefly by acting upon His Majesty's fears that we can hope to do anything, and I shall let him know that Her Majesty's Government have complied with his request on the understanding that he will at once commence to put the reforms into execution.

No. 3.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July* 31, 1879.

SERVIAN Government has received intelligence that there is again considerable agitation in Northern Albania, and that at a numerously attended meeting of Albanian Chiefs it was decided to undertake shortly a fresh incursion into Servia on a large

scale, and to shoot any Ottoman authorities attempting opposition. At the request of Servian Government, Turkish Minister has communicated above information by telegram to the Governor-General of Kossovo.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 4.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. [?].) *Belgrade, July* 31, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Commissioner has asked me to telegraph to your Lordship following information:—

"Commission have decided that it is unnecessary to proceed to Mali Zwornik [? for] delimitation of new frontier, Austrian, Turkish, and Servian Commissioners being of opinion that there were no questions there, and that this portion of the boundary, according to the Treaty of Berlin, is settled, all interested parties being satisfied."

No. 5.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 116.) *Vienna, July* 31, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Ambassador has informed the Austrian Government that in consequence of the objections of the populations of Gousinge and Plava to being ceded to Montenegro, which has recognized the difficulty, the Porte wishes to arrange with the Principality by giving towards city of Krain an equivalent for these territories.

He has been told that if the two countries concerned can come to an agreement Austria will not raise any objection to it.

No. 6.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 48. Confidential.) *Berlin, July* 31, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

ROUMANIAN Minister of Finance leaves to-day for Bucharest; he returned yesterday from Kissingen, where he had a private interview with Prince Bismarck. The Chancellor declined to discuss questions of detail, but gave Minister clearly to understand that there was no divergence of opinion between the interested Powers, and that it would be very perilous for Roumania to oppose their views on the subject of religious liberty.

The Minister will propose to his Government recognition of principle recorded in Berlin Treaty, the immediate emancipation of seven categories mentioned in my despatch No. 375 of the 26th instant, and as regards other categories a law shall be introduced granting to foreigners generally, not to Jews only, who have been born in the country, the right to apply at once to Parliament for naturalization, whilst the period within which those not born there may apply shall be considerably less than what is at present required.

The Minister has great hopes of being able to arrange railway difficulty satisfactorily.

No. 7.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1, 8 A.M.)

(No. 65.) *Therapia, August* 1, 1879, 7·30 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 8, the map with my No. 38 is a tracing of the new Russian map, scale 1 verst to the inch. Frontier traced thereupon is a *fac-simile* of that shown on the map given to me by the Commission.

No. 8.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 198. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1879, 3·25 P.M.

YOU are authorized to instruct Admiral to come to Besika Bay if you think it desirable.

No. 9.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 199.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1879, 3·30 P.M.

HAVE you received any reply to the *note verbale* inclosed with your despatch No. 553 of the 17th June?

There is a question in the House on Monday.

No. 10.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 591.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 1, 1879, 2·15 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Blunt, dated to-day:—

"Mr. Longworth reports four battalions [group wrong] arrived from Constantinople; a French frigate arrived from Salonica."

No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1014. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1879.

I HAVE informed your Excellency by telegraph this afternoon that, if you think it advisable to do so, you are authorized to instruct the British Admiral in command of the Mediterranean squadron to proceed with Her Majesty's ships to Besika Bay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 202. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1879, 7·40 P.M.

YOURS No. 589.

I approve your proposed communication to the Sultan as to the fleet and the necessity for putting the reforms into execution.

No. 13.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 99. Political.)

Scutari, July 20, 1879.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to state that Captain Sale is still in Scutari, and that the only members of the Boundary Commission who are absent are those of Russia and Montenegro, who have withdrawn to Cettigné.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 14.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 16. Political.)

Scutari, Albania, July 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Protocols Nos. 11 to 16 inclusive, of the proceedings of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

No. 11 Protocol contains a reference to the Gusinje-Plava difficulty; No. 12 Protocol contains the discussion on the proposition made by the Italian Commissioner alluded to in my despatch No. 13 of the 2nd instant; No. 14 Protocol contains an appeal for the intervention of the Commission in the matter of certain offensive movements of troops near the disputed frontier between the Scutari Lake and the sea; No. 16 Protocol contains the renewed discussion on the proposition for commencing work, made by the Italian Commissioner, and put to vote for the second time in consequence of orders received by the Turkish, Russian, and Montenegrin Commissioners from their respective Governments.

For the rest the Protocols are merely formal, somewhat diffuse, and devoid of interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Protocole No. 11.—*Séance du* 26 *Mai*, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Sino Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures du matin.

Le Capitaine Testa lit le Protocole No. 10.

Après la lecture des déclarations du Commissaire de France, concernant l'incident de Tusi, M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldo demande à la Commission si ses explications lui paraissent claires, satisfaisantes, et de nature à dégager complétement la responsabilité de son Président.

La Commission émet à l'unanimité une réponse affirmative à cette question et elle approuve le Protocole sus-mentionné.

Le Président demande à son Excellence Riza Pacha quel est le résultat des démarches faites près leurs Excellences Hussein Pacha et Nazif Pacha au sujet des informations sur l'état actuel du district de Goussinje-Plava.

Riza Pacha répond que son Excellence Hussein Pacha lui a déclaré n'a voir aucune information relative à ce district, lequel ne fait pas partie du vilayet de Scutari. Pour ce qui concerne Nazif Pacha, vu les changements survenus récemment dans la circonscription du vilayet de Kossovo, Riza Pacha s'est adressé à la Sublime Porte, laquelle a déclaré que l'on délibérait sur la question de Goussinjé-Plava et que les décisions prises définitivement ne tarderont pas à être communiquées.

L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, le Président propose de suspendre les travaux de délimitation jusqu'à ce que les Commissaires aient connaissance de la suite que leurs Gouvernements respectifs jugeront convenable de donner à leur protestation du 24 Mai.

Cette proposition est approuvée à l'unanimité et la séance est levée.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
S. POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS I.
RIZA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Protocole No. 12.—*Séance du* 1*er Juillet*, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Tahsi Bey,
M. Pszemny Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 4 heures.

Le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi présente M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, envoyé par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères en qualité d'Attaché à la mission du Commissaire de France.

Le Président donne lecture d'une communication officielle de son Excellence Riza Pacha en date du 5 Juin, 1879, et de l'accusé de réception auquel elle a donné lieu de la part du Président. (Voir Annexes 1 et 2 au présent Protocole.)

Il résulte de cette communication que la Commission pourra dorénavant entrer dans les fortifications se trouvant sur le terrain de ses opérations chaque fois que besoin en sera.

Le Président lit ensuite une lettre du Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi, demandant la réunion de la Commission pour lui faire une proposition importante ayant trait à la reprise des travaux. (Voir Annexe 3 au présent Protocole.)

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi pense qu'à la suite de la déclaration contenue dans la lettre de son Excellence Riza Pacha, la Commission ne rencontrera plus à l'avenir d'entraves matérielles.

Le Gouvernement Italien a pris acte de la protestation du 24 Mai et a chargé son Représentant à Constantinople de faire les démarches nécessaires près la Sublime Porte pour que les inconvénients qui ont surgi ne se renouvellent pas.

Le Commissaire d'Italie croit que si quelques Gouvernements n'ont pas encore pris une décision à l'égard de la dite protestation, cela ne saurait empêcher la reprise des travaux. En conséquence il prie le Président de vouloir bien demander à M. le Premier Commissaire Ottoman s'il se croit autorisé à reprendre les travaux en faisant le bornage définitif d'après les décisions de la majorité.

La question étant posée par le Président, *Pszemny Effendi* prend la parole au nom de son Excellence Riza Pacha:—

"Le principe sur lequel repose la question posée par M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi a été adopté par la Commission dans la séance du 1er Mai. Dans la suite, les incidents soulevés par les erreurs de la Carte Autrichienne ont produit entre les Commissaires Ottomans et leurs collègues une divergence d'appréciations considérable sur la valeur à donner à cette carte dans l'application du texte du Traité de Berlin au terrain. Cette différence d'opinion, soutenue du reste par la Sublime Porte, a obligé

les Commissaires Ottomans, malgré leur vif regret, à ne plus prendre part aux travaux de délimitation, conformément à la déclaration qu'ils en ont faite dans la séance du 8 Mai dernier. Depuis cette époque les efforts de la Sublime Porte n'ont pas encore réussi à établir un accord définitif entre les Puissances Signataires du Traité relativement à la valeur de la Carte Autrichienne comme document officiel. La situation des Commissaires Ottomans ne s'est donc pas modifiée depuis le 8 Mai, la même divergence de vues subsiste encore et n'est pas écartée par la proposition du Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi. Par suite de leur refus antérieur les Commissaires Ottomans ne peuvent en conséquence accepter la proposition de faire le tracé et le bornage définitif de la frontière d'après les décisions de la majorité et en base du Protocole No. 2. Toutefois les Commissaires Ottomans croient devoir porter à la connaissance de la Commission que dans le but d'amener une entente réelle entre les Délégués, permettant d'achever promptement et définitivement les travaux de délimitation, ils ont soumis à leur Gouvernement la proposition suivante:

"'On fera un lever général du terrain sur le parcours de toute la frontière, indiquant le tracé de la majorité ainsi que celui proposé par chacune des parties intéressées. Ce travail sera ensuite soumis à l'examen des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin. Le bornage définitif sera posé selon le tracé sanctionné par les dites Puissances.'

"La Sublime Porte a répondu par deux télégrammes, en date des 12 et 18 Juin, que des négociations étaient entamées à ce sujet avec les Puissances dont la réponse n'était pas encore connue."

Le Président dit que la proposition des Commissaires Ottomans à leur Gouvernement n'entre pas dans le cadre de la discussion.

Le Baron Kaulbars ne partage aucunement l'opinion des Commissaires Ottomans, qui vise à transformer la Commission de Délimitation en simple Commission de Topographes.

Les Gouvernements respectifs ont pourvu leurs Commissaires de pleins pouvoirs qui leur donnent le droit de procéder à un tracé définitif de la frontière, et c'est de ce dernier qu'elle doit s'occuper.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, du Monténégro, et d'Italie partagent l'opinion émise par M. le Baron Kaulbars.

Pszemny Effendi ne croit pas que la Commission Européenne descendrait au rôle de Commission Topographique si le projet des Délégués Ottomans était adopté. Outre le lever général du terrain, la Commission aurait toujours à discuter sur les lieux, le tracé de la frontière devant être soumis à la sanction des Cabinets ainsi que les modifications proposées par les parties intéressées.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi, à la suite du refus des Commissaires Ottomans dans un but de transaction, introduit la proposition suivante:—

"Pour répondre à la mission technique qui lui est imposée par son titre même de Commission de Délimitation, et pour l'accomplir conformément aux délibérations prises dans sa deuxième séance, la Commission devrait, après les décisions de la majorité, procéder directement au bornage de la frontière. Ce système qui a été proposé dès le commencement par le Commissaire d'Italie, et accepté à l'unanimité, serait sans doute à préférer, mais du moment que le Commissaire Ottoman s'est refusé de s'y rallier, plus tard à plusieurs reprises et aujourd'hui même, le Délégué de Italie, animé du désir d'arriver à une entente générale, a l'honneur de proposer à ses collègues la procédure qui serait à suivre après avoir décidé à la majorité la marche des travaux et l'itinéraire de la Commission:

"1. Faire la délimitation sur le terrain et sur la carte au $\frac{1}{200000}$ d'après les décisions de la majorité: cette délimitation sera définitive pour la majorité.

"2. Lorsque les deux parties intéressées se rallient à l'opinion de la majorité, on procède tout de suite au bornage définitif.

"3. En cas contraire on ne fait pas de bornage mais à sa place on marque sur le terrain, en corrélation du tracé fait sur la carte à $\frac{1}{200000}$ les points de la frontière dont il s'agit, avec des signes bien visibles, et tels qu'ils puissent durer jusqu'à l'abornement définitif.

"De plus, prévoyant le cas où ces signes pourraient être détruites, ils sont établis par des relèvements géométriques assez précis pour être facilement retrouvés.

"4. Dans ce cas, et pour mieux sauvegarder les intérêts des parties intéressées qui n'auraient pas admis le tracé de la majorité, la Commission adhère à ce que la Sous-Commission Topographique comprenne dans son croquis le, ou les, tracés contradictoires, proposés par la minorité. Le tout sera inséré au Protocole et acquis à la Commission.

"Comme conséquence de ce système qui vise à concilier tous les intérêts sans manquer aux buts et aux devoirs de la Commission, on aura : le tracé de toute la frontière avec reconnaissance et lever du terrain, le bornage, là où les deux parties intéressées sont d'accord ; enfin pour les points sur lesquels on ne pourra pas s'entendre, on donnera aux Puissances des éléments sûrs et positifs pour décider plus tard en dernier ressort."

La discussion s'ouvre sur la proposition qui vient d'être lue.

Le Commissaire d'Italie espère que ses collègues voudront bien se rallier à sa proposition, et approuver une procédure qui, tout en permettant à la Commission d'accomplir sa tâche, sauvegarde les réserves des parties intéressées.

Les Commissaires Ottomans sont heureux de pouvoir accepter la proposition du Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi, qui réunit à leur avis les éléments d'une entente pratique et tend à résoudre la plus grande partie des difficultés qui ont arrêté la Commission jusqu'à ce jour, tout en sauvegardant d'une manière effective les réserves des parties intéressées.

Le Délégué du Monténégro ne peut adhérer à la proposition du Commissaire d'Italie, il désire un bornage général et définitif.

Le Baron Kaulbars propose la modification suivante à la proposition Ottolenghi :—

1. Faire la délimitation sur le terrain au moyen d'un bornage ainsi que sur la carte à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{200000}$, d'après les décisions de la majorité de la Commission. Cette délimitation sera considérée comme définitive et exécutoire par les deux parties intéressées.

2. Après que la Commission aura établi de cette manière toute la ligne-frontière, les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin statueront d'un commun accord sur les points où les décisions de la Commission n'auront pas été unanimes.

Le Capitaine Sale a proposé que la Commission établirait des signes pour le bornage définitif partout où elle le jugerait nécessaire ; mais il pense que le plus souvent il suffirait de faire un lever du terrain entre les frontières alternatives proposées par les Puissances intéressées ; la ligne déterminée par la Commission étant comprise dans ce lever. Le Capitaine Sale est également d'avis que la proposition de M. le Commissaire d'Italie n'est guère pratique, puisqu'il y aurait à peine 1 kilom. de la frontière sur lequel les parties intéressées seraient d'accord, et que par suite la proposition équivaudrait à une démarcation temporaire de la frontière tout entière entre la Turquie et le Monténégro, ce que le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne condamne absolument. Avant de donner son vote, le Commissaire Britannique voudrait demander au Délégué Ottoman s'il est prêt à prendre part aux travaux de la Commission dans ces conditions. Le Capitaine Sale ajoute que la proposition Ottolenghi lui paraît être l'équivalent de la proposition des Commissaires Ottomans à la Sublime Porte.

M. le Consul-Général Lippich dit que la Commission, ayant un mandat exécutif, elle ne devrait s'occuper que de travaux définitifs, et s'abstenir de tout ce qui n'aurait qu'un caractère provisoire. La proposition lui semble en partie aboutir aux buts de la proposition faite à la Sublime Porte par les Délégués Ottomans, et par celle-ci aux Cabinets. Il adhère par conséquent à la modification proposée par le Baron Kaulbars.

Le Capitaine Testa partage entièrement l'opinion émise par le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi insiste énergiquement sur la différence existant entre sa proposition et celle des Commissaires Ottomans. Le système de procédure qu'il propose, conduit directement à la délimitation définitive de la majorité avec tracé sur le terrain, et sur la carte, de $\frac{1}{200000}$.

Le Commissaire de France se croirait autorisé par ses instructions à appuyer la proposition du Commissaire Italien, et elle aurait, selon lui, ce résultat pratique et suffisant d'aboutir à un travail qui puisse servir aux décisions (toujours réservées) des Puissances sans qu'il soit besoin que la Commission se rende une seconde fois sur le terrain.

La discussion étant close, *le Président* met aux voix la première Motion du Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi, conçue en ces termes :—

"Considérant la communication de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général au Premier Commissaire Ottoman, et transmise par ce dernier au Président, en date du 5 Juin courant, la Commission se propose-t-elle de reprendre et poursuivre les travaux en faisant le bornage définitif d'après les décisions de la majorité ?"

Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman déclare qu'il ne peut s'associer à la reprise des travaux sur cette base tant que la Commission n'aura pas accepté le principe

d'appliquer le texte du Traité de Berlin aux noms des localités constatées sur le terrain.

Sur des objections présentées à cet énoncé, *le Président* juge qu'il n'y a pas lieu de revenir sur une question épuisée dans les séances précédentes, et pense qu'il y a lieu de s'en tenir aux débats actuels.

Le Capitaine Sale croit qu'à tous les points de vue il serait préférable pour la Commission d'attendre la décision prise par la Sublime Porte à la suite des représentations qui lui ont été adressées par les différents Cabinets concernant l'interruption des travaux. Il sait que cette décision a été prise, mais il ne s'écartera pas de la majorité, si elle décide la reprise des travaux.

Les Délégués de Monténégro, de Russie, d'Italie, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, et d'Allemagne votent pour la Motion, qui est adoptée à la majorité de 6 voix.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi pose la même question.

Riza Pacha déclare qu'il ne pourra accompagner la Commission dans ces conditions pour les motifs qui ont été exposés par Tzenny Effendi.

Le Président est d'avis que le refus formulé par le Premier Commissaire Ottoman donne lieu à la question suivante, qu'il met aux voix :—

"La Commission croit-elle pouvoir continuer ses travaux sur le terrain, dans le cas où l'une des parties intéressées refuserait d'y prendre part ?"

Les Délégués de la Turquie, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, et d'Allemagne, répondent négativement.

Les Délégués de Russie et du Monténégro répondent affirmativement.

Le Baron Kaulbars demande que la proposition qu'il a présentée soit mise aux voix.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi fait ressortir l'inopportunité de cette votation à la suite du refus des Délégués Ottomans. Tout en étant d'accord en principe avec le Baron Kaulbars, il votera contre sa proposition d'après la décision prise par la majorité de ne pas reprendre les travaux sans l'intervention des Commissaires Ottomans.

Le Baron Kaulbars insistant, *le Président* met aux voix la proposition, ainsi conçue :—

"1. Faire la délimitation sur le terrain au moyen de bornage, ainsi que sur la carte, à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{200000}$, d'après les décisions de la majorité de la Commission. Cette délimitation sera considérée comme définitive et exécutoire par les deux parties intéressées.

"2. Après que la Commission aura établi de cette manière toute la ligne-frontière, les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin statueront d'un commun accord sur les points où les décisions de la Commission n'auront pas été unanimes.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie reconnaît l'exactitude du principe établi par l'amendement de M. le Baron Kaulbars, et il vote par conséquent dans le sens affirmatif, tout en déclarant que pour le moment la reprise des travaux ne peut pas avoir lieu à la suite de la votation précédente, et qu'on ne pourrait les reprendre sans l'intervention de l'une ou de l'autre des parties intéressées.

Le Commissaire de France fait remarquer de son côté qu'il a voté la proposition No. 1, formulant le principe de travail de la Commission, contenu dans l'amendement du Commissaire Russe ; mais après le vote émis à l'instant, et où la majorité de la Commission a déclaré ne pas vouloir travailler en dehors de la participation d'une des deux parties intéressées, le vote en faveur de l'amendement précité ne lui paraîtrait pas logique, ce vote ne pouvant avoir aucune application pratique. En conséquence il vote contre l'amendement.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre est d'accord avec le Commissaire de France pour motiver son vote dans le même sens, contre l'amendement.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne se rallie à l'opinion émise par M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie. Il ajoute qu'un bornage immédiatement définitif et exécutoire par les parties intéressées, offrirait des inconvénients sérieux dans le cas où les Puissances croiraient devoir modifier le tracé adopté par la majorité.

Le Commissaire de France pense en effet qu'il y aurait à examiner la question de savoir dans quelles conditions et dans quels cas, après décision de la majorité et bornage, les parties intéressées seraient autorisées à occuper les territoires délimités.

Le Président, réunissant les suffrages exprimés sur l'amendement du Commissaire de Russie, constate les résultats suivants du vote :

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, du Monténégro, et de Russie votent pour l'amendement.

Les Commissaires d'Italie, de France, de Turquie, et de la Grande Bretagne votent contre l'amendement.

En conséquence, la proposition Kaulbars n'ayant pas réuni de majorité, n'est pas adoptée.

On passe alors à la votation de la proposition transactionnelle du Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi :

Les Délégués d'Italie, de France, de Turquie votent pour la proposition.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne accepte les paragraphes 1, 2, et 4, et rejette le paragraphe 3.

Les Délégués de Russie, du Monténégro, d'Allemagne, et d'Autriche-Hongrie votent contre la proposition.

La proposition Ottolenghi n'est pas adoptée.

Le Commissaire d'Italie, en réponse à la réserve formulée par le Commissaire d'Angleterre, concernant le paragraphe 3, fait observer que cette réserve équivaut à repousser le fond même de sa proposition.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi désirerait un croquis indiquant la délimitation effective des tribus Albanaises et la nomenclature des erreurs que les autorités Ottomanes croient trouver dans la carte Autrichienne relativement au tracé de la nouvelle frontière.

Pszemy Effendi répond qu'une partie des erreurs de la carte est mentionnée dans les mémoires adressés par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie aux différentes Puissances.

M. le Consul-Général Lippich est d'avis qu'en attendant la reprise des travaux, Commission pourrait étudier les questions se rattachant à la délimitation du Monténégro. Il cite comme exemples Markowitz, Kalimed, Plavenica, etc.

Le Baron Kaulbars fait remarquer qu'il a été question pendant la séance d'aujourd'hui de la conservation des signaux topographiques. Il constate que la pyramide placée par la Sous-Commission Topographique sur le Mont Pétubat a été renversée, et demande aux Commissaires des deux Gouvernements limitrophes, par ordre de qui ce fait regrettable a pu se produire. Il est indispensable qu'aucun signal placé par la Commission ne soit détruit.

Le Délégué du Monténégro répond qu'il a reçu du Commandant de l'avant-poste Monténégrin une lettre, lui annonçant que cette pyramide avait été renversée vingt-quatre heures après la construction.

Le Commissaire Ottoman déclare n'avoir aucune connaissance du fait.

Le Baron Kaulbars désire que la pyramide soit réédifiée par les soins du Gouvernement Ottoman, vu que ce territoire est actuellement entre les mains de la Turquie, et qu'elle est indispensable aux travaux topographiques de la Commission.

Riza Pacha communiquera ce désir au Gouverneur-Général.

Le Président, en exprimant le vœu de la Commission, déclare que tout signe topographique doit être absolument respecté.

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

La prochaine séance, consacrée à la lecture du présent Protocole, est fixée à Vendredi, 4 Juillet, à 9 heures du matin.

Fait à Scutari ce 1er Juillet, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
S. POPOVIC.
Baron NICOLAS KAULBARS I.
RIZA.

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 12.

M. le Président,

Son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, Commandeur-en-chef de la Division de Scutari, m'informe qu'à la suite des nouvelles instructions qu'il vient de recevoir, la Commission pourra dorénavant entrer dans les fortifications qui se trouvent sur le terrain de ses opérations chaque fois que besoin en sera.

Je saisis, &c.

Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman,
(Signé) RIZA.

M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
Président de la Commission Européenne pour la
Délimitation du Monténégro, &c., Scutari d'Albanie.

Annexe 2 au Protocole No. 12.

M. le Commissaire,

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire hier pour m'annoncer que son Excellence Hussein Pacha vous informait qu'à la suite des nouvelles instructions qu'il vient de recevoir, la Commission pourra dorénavant entrer dans les fortifications qui se trouvent sur le terrain de ses opérations chaque fois que besoin en sera.

J'ai porté aujourd'hui cette lettre à la connaissance de tous mes collègues et je suis chargé de vous donner acte de votre communication.

Je saisis, &c.

Le Président de la Commission,
(Signé) COLONNA CECCALDI.

Son Excellence Veli Riza Pacha,
Général de Brigade, Premier Commissaire Ottoman,
Scutari d'Albanie.

Annexe 3 au Protocole No. 12.

M. le Comte,

Je vous prie de bien vouloir réunir le plus tôt possible et pas plus tard que Mardi, 1er Juillet, la Commission à laquelle je me propose de présenter une proposition très-importante.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Délégué d'Italie,
(Signé) OTTOLENGHI.

M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
Président de la Commission de Délimation du Monténégro,
Scutari.

Inclosure 3 in No. 14.

Protocole No. 13.—Séance du 4 Juillet, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Mafanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. Pszemy Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures du matin.
Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Sur la proposition du *Commissaire d'Allemagne*, M. le Baron d'Estournelles est adjoint à la rédaction des Protocoles.

Le Commissaire d'Italie, se référant au désir qu'il a déjà exprimé à la fin de la dernière séance, prie le Commissaire Ottoman de vouloir bien faire les démarches nécessaires pour que la Commission reçoive des exemplaires plus complets et sur une plus grande échelle du tracé de la frontière qui a été dressé par le Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte en vue de relever les erreurs de la carte Autrichienne, et communiqué avec un Mémoire aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin. Ce document ne donne en effet que des indications tout-à-fait insuffisantes, notamment en ce qui concerne les noms des villages et des erreurs en question. D'autre part, le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi désirerait, comme il l'a dit précédemment, que M. le Commissaire Ottoman fit remettre à la Commission une nomenclature des différentes localités situées sur les confins de ce tribus.

Le Commissaire Ottoman prend acte du désir exprimé par le Commissaire d'Italie, et fera les démarches nécessaires pour qu'il y soit donné satisfaction le plus tôt possible.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, en présence des erreurs signalées sur la Carte Autrichienne par le Mémoire précité, demande à la Commission si elle ne jugerait pas utile de déclarer que la dite carte est exacte relativement à l'ilot de Torica-Topal. Il se réserve d'ailleurs de présenter dans une des prochaines séances des observations à cet égard.

Le Commissaire Ottoman observe que son Gouvernement ne saurait considérer comme complet l'enquête faite par la Commission le 7 Mai dernier pour constater l'identité de cet ilot: les Commissaires ne s'étant pas rendus jusqu'à Slanik pour interroger la population des environs.

Pszenny Effendi, au nom de son Excellence Riza Pacha, fait savoir qu'on a retrouvé un document écrit qui est de nature à fournir sur la question contestée de nouveaux éclaircissements.

Le Président croit devoir exprimer au nom de la Commission l'avis qu'elle ne saurait revenir sur des décisions déjà prises dans les séances précédentes sans retarder d'une façon préjudiciable le cours de ses travaux.

Pszenny Effendi prend alors la parole sur une autre question pour exposer que M. le Baron Kaulbars, ayant demandé au Premier Commissaire Ottoman des sauf-conduits pour six officiers topographes, attachés à sa personne, et devant opérer sur le territoire de la frontière Turco-Monténégrine, le Commissaire Ottoman désirerait obtenir du Commissaire de Russie quelques renseignements sur la mission de ces officiers.

La Commission croit qu'elle n'a pas à délibérer sur cette question qui lui est absolument étrangère.

La séance est levée à midi.

La date de la prochaine séance sera désignée ultérieurement.

(Signé)

Inclosure 4 in No. 14.

Protocole No. 14.—Séance du 7 Juillet, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 10 heures et demie.

Le Président donne lecture de deux lettres des Commissaires Turcs et Monténégrins qui motivent la convocation de la Commission. (Voir Annexes 1 et 2 au présent Protocole.)

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Président donne lecture de deux télégrammes annexés à la communication du Commissaire Ottoman, échangés entre son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Monténégro et son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général Hussein Pacha, en date des 2 et 3 de ce mois, relativement à des mouvements de troupes opérés aux environs de Duleigno. (Voir Annexe 3 au présent Protocole.)

M. le Capitaine Sale désire savoir, avant de passer à la discussion de la question, si l'intervention de la Commission est demandée par les deux parties.

Les Commissaires Turcs et Monténégrins répondent affirmativement.

Sur la demande de *son Excellence Riza Pacha*, *le Président* donne lecture des passages de la Convention de Vir-Bazar du 21 Janvier (v.s.) et spécialement des alinéas ainsi conçus:—

"Une colonne composée des troupes qui occupent le versant sud de la chaîne de montagnes de la Crâna, située entre le lac de Scutari et la mer, se mettra en marche pour rejoindre la nouvelle frontière Monténégrine présumée jusqu'au pont de Mirkovitch. Une seconde colonne composée de la garnison Monténégrine de Duleigno, se mettra en mouvement et traversera la nouvelle frontière présumée jusqu'à Vrena Kruci. Une troisième colonne composée des postes Monténégrins située sur le versant nord des montagnes de la Crâna se dirigera vers la nouvelle frontière présumée. En ce qui concerne . . . .

"Pour éviter toute espèce de malentendu, les Commissaires décident que les troupes de part et d'autre se tiendront sur tout le parcours de cette ligne (la ligne de la frontière provisoire) à 500 mètres de distance, jusqu'à la décision de la Commission de Délimitation."

Son Excellence Riza Pacha fait observer en conséquence que les mouvements opérés par les avant-postes Monténégrins sont en contradiction avec la dite Convention.

Le Commissaire de Monténégro, invité par le Président à développer de son côté les

observations qu'il désire présenter à la Commission au sujet de cet incident, prend la parole en ces termes:

"Nos avant-postes n'ont pas cessé d'occuper Kruci depuis le jour où notre armée a évacué Dulcigno, ainsi que le territoire jusqu'à la Bojana.

"Ils n'ont pas avancé d'un pas et n'ont jamais reçu de renforts: au contraire, à Kruci comme sur tous les autres points, nos avant-postes ont été amoindris et portés à trente ou même à vingt hommes.

"Le 1er Juillet au matin, le Caïmacam de Dulcigno avec Arslan Bey et des troupes s'est avancé vers Kruci en invitant nos avant-postes à se retirer immédiatement derrière la Majoura. Sur le refus de ces derniers, qui ont déclaré ne pouvoir faire aucun mouvement en arrière, attendu qu'ils n'avaient reçu à ce sujet aucun ordre de leur Gouvernement, le Caïmacam avec ces troupes a alors dépassé nos avant-postes et occupé des positions derrière les leurs. Le Commandant de nos troupes, le Voïvode Macho Androv, qui se trouvait à Antivari, après avoir eu connaissance de ces faits, s'est immédiatement rendu sur les lieux pour prévenir et éviter les malentendus que auraient pu se produire.

"Tels sont les renseignements que nous a envoyés notre Gouvernement au sujet de l'incident de Kruci, et que nous avons du reste mentionnés dans la lettre de ce jour que nous avons eu l'honneur d'adresser à M. le Président de la Commission.

"En dehors du fait sus-mentionné, notre Gouvernement aurait eu à plusieurs reprises de sérieuses raisons pour protester contre d'autres mesures prises à son égard de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman, s'il ne s'était abstenu de le faire uniquement pour ne pas compliquer les travaux de la Commission, d'autant plus que celle-ci, étant à la veille d'entreprendre ses travaux, ses décisions ne devraient pas se faire attendre.

"Nous aurions par exemple à demander sur quel fondement l'autorité Turque s'est appuyée pour occuper les hauteurs qui se trouvent dans la Zéta, et de choisir ainsi à son gré une ligne qui n'est nullement déterminée par le Congrès de Berlin, et de plus, de la fortifier, même encore aujourd'hui, sans attendre la décision de la Commission Européenne, seul juge selon nous en pareille matière.

"De plus, d'après le Traité de Berlin il y a pleine et entière liberté de navigation sur la Bojana pour le Monténégro. Nous aurions en conséquence à protester contre les retards et les empêchements systématiques que rencontre l'importation de notre sel dans son passage à travers la Bojana. Tous nos autres articles d'importation provenant de Trüst et dirigés sur Rieka et Podgoritza, sont arrêtés à la Douane de Scutari, et l'autorité locale cherche à faire lever des droits sur ces marchandises comme si elles appartenaient à ses nationaux.

"Pour ces faits et d'autres nous aurions eu à entretenir la Commission, si des instructions formelles de notre Gouvernement ne nous avaient pas ordonnés d'éviter toute occasion de susciter des discussions dans la Commission sur des incidents et des faits isolés qui, loin de faciliter ses travaux, ne tendraient qu'à les entraver davantage. En conséquence les Commissaires Monténégrins soumettraient à la Commission la proposition suivante:

"'La Commission se trouvant sur le point et à la veille de reprendre ses travaux de délimitation, et considérant que chaque question isolée se rapportant à l'état présent des choses existant sur la frontière Turco-Monténégrine, ne pouvant que créer des difficultés dans ses travaux et des malentendus, décide en conséquence que les deux parties intéressées maintiendront, pour tout ce qui a rapport aux avant-postes et aux autres questions de la frontière, le *statu quo*, jusqu'à son arrivée sur les lieux mêmes."

Le Président donne acte au Commissaire Monténégrin de sa proposition ainsi que de l'ensemble de ses déclarations; il ajoute que la Commission est obligée, quant au présent, de s'en tenir à l'incident dont elle vient d'être saisie et qui est actuellement seul en question.

Le Commissaire Ottoman, en réponse à une question que lui adresse à ce sujet le Président, fait savoir à la Commission que le Gouverneur-Général Hussien Pacha a envoyé au Prince de Monténégro un télégramme pour prier son Altesse de vouloir bien désigner de son côté, comme l'a fait la Sublime Porte, un Délégué qui soit envoyé sur le terrain.

Le Commissaire de France propose que, dans le cas où la réponse au Prince serait affirmative, la Commission envoie de son côté un ou plusieurs Délégués sur le terrain, avec la mission d'apporter aux parties intéressées leur arbitrage, et de les faire rentrer exactement dans les limites de la Convention de Vir-Bazar.

Le Commissaire Ottoman accepterait cette proposition.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin pense qu'il serait désirable que les Délégués envoyés par la Commission eussent à s'assurer par eux-mêmes de l'état des choses et à constater quelle est celle des deux parties dont les troupes ont exécuté le mouvement en avance qui a produit l'incident en question, et qu'ils eussent à faire rentrer les deux parties dans les positions qu'elles occupaient avant le dit incident.

La Commission est dès à présent unanime à se rallier à la proposition du Commissaire Français.

Le Capitaine Sale désirerait toutefois être éclairé sur les deux points suivants:

1. En raison des complications qui se présentent et pour éviter des conflits possibles, le Commissaire Ottoman serait-il disposé à reprendre les travaux de démarcation définitivement entre Megured-Kalimed et Val Kruci?

2. Les Commissaires Turcs et Monténégrins sont-ils autorisés par leurs Gouvernements respectifs à accepter dans ce cas, comme définitives, les décisions de la Commission ou de ses Délégués?

En ce qui concerne la première question, *le Commissaire Ottoman* répond qu'il est obligé de s'en tenir à son vote en faveur de la proposition Ottolenghi. Quant à la deuxième question, le Commissaire Ottoman répond affirmativement.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin fait observer que, tout en ayant saisi par sa lettre la Commission de l'incident de Vir Kruci, il ne saurait se prononcer sur la question du Capitaine Sale avant la réponse de son Gouvernement au télégramme du Gouverneur-Général, et à la demande d'instructions qu'il compte lui adresser aujourd'hui même.

Le Commissaire de France déclare en conséquence que sa proposition se trouve également suspendue.

La Commission désirerait savoir dans quel délai le Commissaire Monténégrin espère recevoir ces instructions.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin déclare que sa lettre partira aujourd'hui même et qu'il pourra sans doute en recevoir la réponse demain, Mardi soir.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre fait alors la proposition suivante:

"Je propose, pour éviter des incidents regrettables, que les Commissaires des Puissances limitrophes donnent l'assurance formelle de la part de leurs Gouvernements qu'ils défendront à leurs troupes de faire aucun mouvement en avant des postes avancés qu'elles occupent à présent jusqu'à ce que la Commission ou son Délégué aient pris en main l'affaire de Kruci et environs."

Cette proposition est acceptée à l'unanimité, les Commissaires Turcs et Monténégrins ayant, sur la demande de M. le Capitaine Sale, déclaré être autorisés à donner une assurance de cette nature.

Le Commissaire de Russie fait une proposition ainsi conçue:

Il propose d'inviter les deux Gouvernements limitrophes, après règlement de l'incident de Kruci, à maintenir leurs troupes, par rapport à la zone de la nouvelle frontière du Traité de Berlin, dans le *statu quo*, jusqu'à la fin définitive des travaux de la Commission.

Cette proposition est adoptée par tous les Commissaires à l'exception du Commissaire Ottoman, qui s'en tient à la proposition précédente du Capitaine Sale, qu'il considère comme plus propre à assurer l'exécution de la Convention de Vir-Bazar.

Le Commissaire Britannique demande:

1. Que l'autorité locale de Scutari soit officiellement avisée par l'intermédiaire du Commissaire Ottoman que MM. les Commissaires Monténégrins ont donné l'assurance formelle au sein de la Commission qu'aucun mouvement en avant des troupes Monténégrines n'aurait lieu sur la ligne de Kruci et des environs.

2. Que MM. les Commissaires Monténégrins informent le Gouvernement Princier que les Commissaires Ottomans ont fait dans le sein de la Commission la déclaration formelle qu'aucun mouvement en avant des troupes Turques n'aurait lieu sur la dite ligne.

La proposition est adoptée à l'unanimité.

La Commission s'ajourne jusqu'au moment où les Commissaires Monténégrins seront en mesure de communiquer les instructions qu'ils sollicitent.

La séance est levée à midi et demi.

(Signé)

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 14.

M. le Président,

Son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général m'ayant adressé une communication de la plus haute importance, touchant la délimitation du Monténégro, je viens vous prier de vouloir bien réunir la Commission en séance demain, Lundi, à 10 heures, si rien ne s'y oppose.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman,
(Signé) RIZA.

M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
Président de la Commission Européenne pour la
Délimitation du Monténégro, &c.

Annexe 2 au Protocole No. 14.

M. le Président, *Scutari, le 7 Juillet*, 1879.

Notre Gouvernement nous communique que dans la journée du Mardi, 1er Juillet, des troupes Turques parties de Dulcigno, se sont avancées vers nos avant-postes et les ont invités à se retirer. Sur le refus de nos soldats, qui ont continué à garder les positions dans lesquelles ils se trouvaient depuis si longtemps, les Turcs ont continué leur marche en avant.

Il serait désirable que des faits aussi regrettables ne se reproduisent plus à l'avenir, et que des deux côtés les avant-postes gardent leurs premières positions jusqu'à la décision définitive de la Commission Européenne.

Notre Gouvernement, M. le Président, en nous chargeant de saisir de cet incident la Commission, nous ordonne en même temps de la prévenir qu'en présence d'un pareil état de choses, il décline toute responsabilité des faits qui pourraient se produire.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Commissaires du Monténégro,
(Signé)

M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
Président de la Commission de Délimitation
du Monténégro.

Annexe 3 au Protocole No. 14.

Hussein Pacha à M. Radonich, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Cettigné.

(Télégraphique.) *Scutari, le 2 Juillet*, 1879.

Les autorités civiles et militaires Ottomanes sur les frontières me signalent que depuis deux jours les troupes Monténégrines avancent incessamment vers Gauda-Kraïna et Dulcigno. Causant ainsi des dommages considérables aux populations pendant la moisson, la Convention signée à Vir-Bazar en date du 21 Janvier, 1870, devient par ce fait lettre-morte. En attendant, les réclamations des populations susdites se multiplient continuellement. En présence d'un pareil état de choses, je vous prie de vouloir bien donner des ordres nécessaires pour que la Convention de Vir-Bazar soit scrupuleusement exécutée jusqu'à ce que la Commission Européenne chargée de la délimitation ait définitivement déterminée la ligne-frontière. En même temps je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner les ordres les plus précis pour que les troupes Monténégrines qui ont pénétré sous n'importe quel prétexte dans les points précités, aient à se retirer. Je dois vous déclarer que je décline dès à présent toute responsabilité pour tout inconvénient qui pourrait dériver des faits énoncés, si contre toute attente les troupes Monténégrines persistent de ne pas retirer.

M. Radonich à Hussein Pacha.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le 3 Juillet*, 1879.

J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir le télégramme de votre Excellence du courant. Je suis en mesure de déclarer formellement à votre Excellence que les informations qui lui sont parvenues sur le prétendu mouvement des troupes Monténégrines vers Gauda-Kraïna et Dulcigno sont complétement inexactes. Aucun mouvement de nos troupes ne s'est opéré vers ces localités depuis la signature de l'arrangement de Vir-Bazar.

Le Gouvernement Princier par contre s'est trouvé dans la nécessité de signaler au Corps Consulaire de Scutari ainsi qu'à la Commission Européenne de délimitation le mouvement en avant des troupes Ottomanes de Dulcigno vers Kruci, mouvement qui ne peut être justifié par aucun raison plausible. Les derniers renseignements qui nous parviennent à ce sujet disent que le détachement sortit de Dulcigno sous le commandement du Caïmacam de cette ville, somma nos postes de se retirer de l'autre côté de la Mozouva, et après avoir essuyé un refus, établit ses avant-postes bien au-delà de la ligne occupée par nos troupes depuis l'évacuation de Dulcigno.

Il me semblerait donc, votre Excellence, plutôt à mon Gouvernement, qui a tenu en honneur de se conformer scrupuleusement au Traité de Berlin ainsi qu'à l'arrangement de Vir-Bazar, de décliner toute responsabilité des conséquences qui pourraient résulter de cet incident, d'autant plus regrettable qu'il se produit la veille de l'arrivée de la Commission de Délimitation sur les lieux.

Inclosure 5 in No. 14.

Protocole No. 15.—Séance du 9 Juillet, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Tahri Bey,
M Danish Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 10 heures.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman présente Danish Effendi en qualité de Délégué de la Sublime Porte.

Le Président communique à la Commission les instructions reçues par les Commissaires Monténégrins, et contenues dans la lettre suivante :—

"*Cattigné, le* 8 *Juillet*, 1879.

"M. Popovic,

"Le détachement de Dulcigno s'étant retiré à une certaine distance de notre poste de Kruci, et que, de notre côté, ayant fait retirer le renfort envoyé à la suite de la sortie de ce détachement, nous considérons l'incident comme terminé, et par suite le Gouvernement Princier ne voit pas l'utilité de l'envoi d'une Commission sur les lieux. Vous pouvez en outre donner à la Commission les assurances les plus formelles que les ordres les plus précis ont été transmis à nos avant-postes de ne faire aucun mouvement en avant, et qu'ils aient à observer le *statu quo* le plus strict jusqu'à la fin des travaux de la Commission Internationale de délimitation sur les lieux.

(Signé) "RADONICH."

Le Commissaire de France fait, en conséquence, la proposition suivante:—

"La Commission, vu la lettre communiquée par MM. les Commissaires Monténégrins, dans laquelle le Gouvernement Princier déclare qu'il ne voit pas d'utilité de l'envoi d'une Commission sur les lieux, considérant qu'elle ne s'était saisie de l'incident qu'après la déclaration des deux parties réclamant l'intervention de la Commission, vu que, dans la lettre précitée, l'une des parties intéressées revient sur cette demande, déclare ne pouvoir donner suite à son action dans l'incident de Kruci."

La Commission adopte cette proposition à la majorité de 7 voix.

Danish Effendi observe que la question reste ainsi sur le même pied et qu'un conflit demeure possible; il demande à cette occasion si la Commission consentirait à formuler son opinion sur l'incident de Kruci.

La Commission croit que cette interprétation n'entre pas dans son rôle et que, d'ailleurs, en l'absence d'une enquête préalable, elle n'est pas en mesure de se prononcer.

La demande de Danish Effendi est en conséquence écartée à la majorité de 7 voix.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha exprime alors le désir que la déclaration suivante soit insérée au Protocole:—

"A la suite du vote de la Commission, les Commissaires Ottomans croient devoir derechef réserver les droits de la Sublime Porte sur la ligne de Kruci, conformément à la Convention de Vir-Bazar, et déclinent toute responsabilité pour tout conflit ultérieur qui pourrait se produire à ce sujet."

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre désire savoir si MM. les Commissaires Ottomans ont reçu des instructions relativement à la reprise des travaux.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha répond qu'il n'en a pas reçu, mais qu'il a télégraphié à Constantinople en en demandant avec instances.

Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman annonce à la Commission que Pszenny Effendi est rappelé à Constantinople.

Le Président exprime les regrets de la Commission.

Le Commissaire Ottoman ajoute que Danish Effendi a été désigné par la Sublime Porte comme Secrétaire de la mission Ottomane.

La séance est levée à 11 heures.

La date de la prochaine séance sera fixée ultérieurement.

(Signé)

Inclosure 6 in No. 14.

Protocole No. 16.—*Séance du* 21 *Juillet*, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Tahri Bey,
M. Danish Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Président donne lecture d'une lettre en date du 19 de ce mois, par laquelle son Excellence Riza Pacha exprime le désir que la Commission soit convoquée pour discuter de nouveau la reprise des travaux sur la base de la proposition Ottolenghi; il consulte ensuite la Commission sur ses intentions à cet egard.

Le Commissaire de Russie déclare qu'il a reçu de son Gouvernement l'ordre d'accepter intégralement la proposition Ottolenghi.

Le Président demande alors à MM. les Commissaires Turcs et Monténégrins s'ils ont reçu des instructions leur autorisant à se rallier à la proposition Ottolenghi.

La réponse de M. le Commissaire Ottoman est affirmative.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin déclare que ses instructions lui prescrivent d'adopter la proposition Ottolenghi dans le cas où elle serait votée par la majorité.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne est d'avis qu'il y a deux méthodes pratiques suivant lesquelles la Commission pourrait travailler. La première et la meilleure serait de mettre les signes de bornage permanents sur toute la frontière; la seconde (si les circonstances empêchent de se servir du premier moyen) serait de ne mettre les signes que là où les parties entéressées sont d'accord, mais de se fier entièrement aux croquis et à une description detaillée et exacte de la frontière fixée, tout en évitant soigneusement de mettre des signes provisoires—méthode plus mauvaise qu'inutile, parce que la population ne ferait aucune distinction entre les signes de bornage provisiores et permanents. Une fois qu'elle aura vu le bornage effectivement fait sur le terrain, elle le prendra comme définitif, et tout changement subséquent serait non-seulement pour elle la cause de beaucoup de tort individuel, mais même lui ôterait toute confiance dans la décision des Puissances, en tant que représentées par la Commission.

Le Capitaine Sale demande en conséquence à la Commission de substituer au paragraphe 3 de la proposition Ottolenghi l'amendement suivant:—

"Dans le cas où les parties intéressées ne seraient pas d'accord, la Commission prendra une décision selon la majorité des voix, et procédera au tracé de la frontière sur les croquis ou les levers faits par la Sous-Commission Topographique, et en même temps, elle insérera dans l'acte officiel une description du bornage tellement détaillée

et technique qu'on puisse l'identifier avec la frontière, sans qu'il y ait même la possibilité d'une erreur.

MM. les Commissaires Monténégrins votent contre cet amendement, et désirent le maintien des signes sur le terrain.

M. le Commissaire de Russie vote dans le même sens, en faisant une déclaration semblable. Il reconnait la valeur des objections du Commissaire Britannique, mais ses instructions l'obligent à insister sur le maintien des signes.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie doit s'en tenir à sa proposition puisqu'elle a été approuvée par son Gouvernement; mais il ne veut pas, néanmoins, se séparer de la majorité, et vote pour l'amendement.

L'amendement est adopté par 6 voix, contre 2.

La proposition ainsi modifiée du Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi est donc mise aux voix, et adoptée à l'unanimité.

Le Commissaire de Russie demande à faire la déclaration suivante :—

"Il est bien entendu que la partie provisoire de la frontière doit être respectée et considérée inviolable par les deux parties intéressées jusqu'à son acceptation définitive par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin."

M. le Commissaire Ottoman prend ensuite la parole, et fait la déclaration ainsi conçue :

"Le Commissaire Ottoman a l'honneur de déclarer qu'il accepte le *statu quo* sur les bases de la Convention de Vir-Bazar, et insiste pour que le Monténégro fasse honneur à ses engagements envers la Sublime Porte, contenus dans l'instrument du 21 Janvier, 1879 (v.s.). Il proteste derechef contre l'occupation de Kruci; en demande l'évacuation incessante, et signale à la Commission les empiétements du Monténégro du côté de Calman, de Gorana, et de Lescovac. Les autorités du vilayet ont fait connaître à Riza Pacha que des agents du Monténégro ont procédé dans ces localités au recensement des populations, acte qui préjuge non-seulement les décisions de la Commission, mais celles aussi des Puissances qui ont pris part aux délibérations de Berlin. En effet, même en laissant de côté pour le moment la question d'identité, comme il est dit dans ce Traité, que la frontière Monténégrine passera entre Cahnet et Meaggioret, Riza Pacha ne se rend pas compte pourquoi le Monténégro a hâte d'exercer un droit de souveraineté sur un territoire en litige. Est-ce qu'il nourrit espérance que ses empiétements constitueront en sa faveur le bénéfice du fait accompli? Dans ce cas, et à moins qu'on ne la rassure complétement, la délégation Ottomane se trouverait entravé dès le début des travaux. Riza Pacha se résume en demandant d'urgence l'évacuation de Kruci et la fixation du *statu quo* d'après les indications de Vir-Bazar."

Le Président observe que la Commission, devant se transporter incessamment sur les lieux, cette question se trouvera nécessairement tranchée par ses décisions.

Le Président, résumant ensuite les résultats acquis de la séance, déclare que la Commission n'a plus qu'à fixer le moment de la reprise des travaux.

La Commission décide de partir Vendredi, 25 de ce mois, pour Gorana.

Le présent Protocole est rédigé et approuvé séance tenante.

La séance est levée à 10 heures.

(Signé)

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 16.

Scutari, le 19 Juillet, 1879.

M. le Président,

A la suite de nouvelles instructions reçues de Constantinople, nous croyons devoir vous informer nous trouver prêts à reprendre les travaux de delimitation, sur la base de la motion de M. Ottolenghi, Délégué d'Italie, à laquelle vous vous êtes rallié déjà. Nous serions conséquemment désireux de voir la Commission réunie pour Lundi prochain; en cas d'entente, nous partirons au plus tôt pour la frontière.

Je saisis, &c.

Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman,
(Signé) RIZA.

M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
Consul-Général, Commissaire de France, Président de la
Commission Internationale de Délimitation du Monténégro,
Scutari.

No. 15.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 17. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, Albania, July 22, 1879.*

IN extension of my telegram of yesterday's date sent to your Lordship through Mr. Kirby Green, I have the honour to state that at a séance of the Commission held yesterday the Turkish Representative declared that he had orders to support the proposition made by the Italian Commissioner as detailed at length in Protocol No. 12 of the 1st instant, and mentioned in my despatch No. 13 of the 2nd instant.

The Russian and Montenegrin Commission also stated that they had received explicit orders to support the same proposition.

There being now a majority supporting the proposition, it was put to the vote for the second time.

Knowing that the instructions sent to the Turkish Commissioner whilst directing him to support the proposition of the Italian Representative also urged him to oppose the execution of the temporary demarcation, and as I myself considered that the temporary demarcation of the frontier would be exceedingly objectionable, I deemed that it would be in accordance with the views expressed in your Lordship's note of the 26th June, 1879 (addressed to Count Károlyi), to oppose the construction of any temporary or provisional boundary marks, and to amend the proposition by proposing in lieu thereof that wherever the interested parties could not be brought to agree, the boundary should be demarcated in large scale topographical sketches made *ad hoc* by the Commission.

This view was adopted, and it has been decided to commence work on Friday, the 25th instant, at the sea-coast, placing permanent boundary marks only where the parties are agreed, elsewhere the boundary is to be demarcated according to vote of majority, in maps only, including in the surveys the alternative frontiers proposed by either of the interested parties.

The discussion with the reasons urged against the temporary demarcation is to be found in Protocol No. 16 sent this day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 16.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 191.)

My Lord, *Athens, July 26, 1879.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 127 of the 27th May last, I have the honour to report that the deputation charged by numerous Greek inhabitants of Janina to advocate at Constantinople before the Ambassadors of the Great Powers the union of that city to Greece has left Athens to carry out their mission. They have not, I understand, any settled plan of operations but propose to be guided by circumstances when the question of the new frontier shall be actually before the Conference of the Representatives of the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 17.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 348.)

My Lord, *Rome, July 29, 1879.*

I HAD an interview this morning with M. Cairoli.

His Excellency is still suffering from his wound; and after accompanying the King and Queen to Genoa on Saturday next, the 2nd August, he intends going to some mineral waters.

After some general observations, I asked M. Cairoli whether the present Ministry

intended to adhere to the course of their predecessors in regard to the Greek frontier question.

His Excellency avoided pronouncing himself positively on this subject. He referred to the unanimous feeling in the Italian Parliament in favour of the Greek cause, to the motion which had been presented yesterday in the Senate by Signor Mamiani, urging the Government to support the line which had been proposed at the Congress, and which motion would certainly have been voted unanimously, he said, if he had not persuaded its author to withdraw it.

It was impossible, his Excellency said, for him not to take account of this feeling. He was, however, desirous of acting with England, and he hoped it might be possible to find a basis for a common understanding.

I stated, in reply, that the only object of Her Majesty's Government was that there should be a just, peaceful, and durable settlement of this question, and for this reason they were opposed to the cession of Janina to Greece, and thought the line proposed by the late Italian Government acceptable.

This conversation has strengthened my impression that M. Cairoli will not act counter to the popular feeling in Italy upon this question.

M. Cairoli then referred to the affairs of Egypt; but I said that I was not sufficiently acquainted with what was passing in that country to be able to enter into a discussion.

His Excellency mentioned the strong desire of the ex-Khedive to return to Constantinople, to which I replied that, if the Italian Government had the means of exercising any influence upon him, I thought they would do a service by inducing his Highness to remain where he is, as, if he succeeded in getting permission to return to Constantinople, he would only intrigue, and give rise to additional trouble in that capital.

M. Cairoli spoke of the possibility of finding some palace for him in Italy. His Excellency had thought of the Favorita at Portici, which would have been admirably adapted, but, unfortunately, half of it was sold and inhabited. There was also Caserta, but this was a show place, and the constant arrival of visitors might, perhaps, be an inconvenient disturbance of the secrecy of his Highness' Oriental establishment. His Excellency said he should think the matter over again.

A few words were exchanged respecting the Roumanian recognition question, on which his Excellency did not appear to me to be so eager as his predecessor. He said that, without going to the extent of requiring the insertion of the actual wording of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin in the Constitution, the Powers owed it to themselves not to allow themselves to be mystified or deluded, and that, consequently, before Roumania was officially recognized, it was requisite that there should be some serious guarantee for the establishment of perfect religious equality and freedom. Italy, his Excellency said, would follow the same course as England and France in this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 18.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 2, 9 A.M.*)

(No. 592.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 1, 1879.*

SULTAN has given orders that European Finance Inspectors shall be named at once in the Asiatic provinces. I have been asked to recommend some persons for the office, and I have proposed four or five who are here. Some knowledge of the language and of the country is required. The salary will be 600*l.* a-year. Please consider this quite confidential at present. Is there any person that you wish to recommend?

No. 19.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 2, 9 A.M.*)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 1, 1879.*

WITH reference to your despatch [? telegram] to Sir H. Layard No. 890 [? 190] communicated to me. At an interview with Russian Commissioner he assured me that he has sent to St. Petersburgh all the documents bearing on the points in dispute, and also the map showing the frontier traced by the Russian and Turk. This map should reach St. Petersburgh about this day. The map described by Mr. Plunkett would, therefore, appear to be superseded, and point mentioned is probably that of the Treaty of San Stefano. It should be remembered, however, that the termination of the frontier so traced was not the point shown me in Commission which I was prepared to accept, and is at variance with project of frontier inclosed in my despatch No. 23, which distinctly mentions the frontier as following the watershed. In fact, the Russian point belongs to the system of frontier which was abandoned with surrender of point Y.

Map mentioned in your telegram No. 8 has been promised.

No. 20.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 2, 1879.*

TURKISH Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram from the Porte relative to a renewal of negotiations with Montenegro at Constantinople for a modification of frontier in the neighbourhood of Goussinié and Plava.

I have replied that upon this matter we see no reason to oppose any decision to which the interested parties may come; but that, as it is apparently intended to modify the Treaty of Berlin, the assent of all the Signatory Powers will be necessary.

No. 21.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 2, 11·30 P.M.*)

(No. 595.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 2, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 190, Porte has not answered my note. I have received to-day the most distinct assurances from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs that the delay in executing Article XXIII arises from no intention whatever of evading the Porte's obligations, but has been rendered absolutely necessary by the fact that the new "Règlements" being based upon the Constitution of Eastern Roumelia, there have been more than 900 Articles to be discussed. This having been done, the whole "Règlement" will have to be read once more to the Council of Ministers as a last formality, and will then be sent to the provinces. This can be stated to the House of Commons.

No. 22.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 3, 1 P.M.*)

(No. 47. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 1879.*

THE First French Commissioner has told me incidentally, in private conversation, that he has "timidly" suggested to his Government necessity of reopening the question of a mixed occupation, in view of the course which affairs are taking in the province.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 23.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3, 1 P.M.)

(No. 48.) *Philippopolis, August 3, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

COMMISSIONER who has fixed electoral districts in an exclusively Bulgarian interest has only been appointed under Article 13 of Appendix I to Statute to advise Governor-General in that matter. Does your Lordship authorize me to hold strong language to the Governor-General warning him that Her Majesty's Government will not permit him to [? figures wrong] such a trick as that of securing an exclusively Bulgarian representation?

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 24.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 29. Secret.) *Foreign Office, August 3, 1879.*

Sir,

YOU seem to have reason to suppose that the French Commissioner entertains the opinion that the turn which affairs are taking in Eastern Roumelia will necessitate the reopening of the question of a mixed occupation, and that he has recommended it to the consideration of his Government.

I should be glad to learn from you further as to the grounds upon which the opinion is formed; whether it is believed that a mixed occupation will be necessary, in order to coerce Aleko Pasha, or to force the population to obey his orders; or whether it is intended to forestall the possibility of a requisition being made for Turkish Troops by the Governor-General.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 25.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 31.) *Foreign Office, August 3, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct you to remonstrate energetically with Aleko Pasha against the steps he is taking to secure an exclusive Bulgarian representation in the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 26.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 54. Secret.) *Foreign Office, August 3, 1879, 11:30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 47, what is the aim of the French Commissioner's recommendation? Does he think a mixed occupation necessary in order to coerce Aleko, or to force his subjects to obey him, or to prevent possible requisition for Turkish troops?

No. 27.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 3, 1879, 11:30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No 48, you may use to Aleko whatever strong language you think likely to attain the end you have in view. But if you use threats, which you are afterwards unable to execute, it is probable that your influence will suffer.

No. 28.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 328.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to state that M. de Giers has just informed me, with many apologies, that he must have misunderstood the purport of Prince Labanoff's telegram in reference to alleged settlement of the controversy between the British and Russian Commissioners respecting the delimitation of the Russo-Turkish frontier near Karaourgan. It now appears that the dispute is still open, but unfortunately Prince Labanoff was too busy to furnish full explanations to M. de Giers by his last courier, and had been obliged to defer dealing with the matter until the next post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 29.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 334.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant, I have the honour to inform you that M. de Giers says that the Minister of War has assured him that such an extensive distribution of cartridges as that reported by Mr. Michell cannot have taken place. In reply, I insisted on the correctness of the information we had received, and pointed out to him in pretty express language the unjustifiable character of the transaction. M. de Giers acknowledged that if these cartridges had been distributed to private individuals or irresponsible Societies the proceeding was inexcusable, and promised that he would set on foot the strictest inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 30.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 336.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 147 of the 22nd instant, and the language reported by Sir Austen Layard as having been addressed to him by Prince Labanoff, to the effect that if the delimitation of the frontier between Turkey in Asia and Russia was not soon satisfactorily settled the Russian troops would receive orders to advance to the line claimed by the Russian Commission, I have the honour to state, that M. de Giers assures me that the Prince's expressions are entirely unauthorized by his Government, that no such orders have been given or are in contemplation, and that Prince Labanoff's allusion must be merely considered as the rhetorical expression of his personal impatience at the delays which have supervened on the tracing of the frontier. It is only this morning that M. de Giers has received the papers referring to this subject, but the Russian map which ought to have

accompanied them has not arrived. He has begged me, therefore, to defer the discussion of the matter until Friday, by which time he will have had leisure to study the documents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 31.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 338. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, July 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that M. de Giers, after alluding to the fact that considerable bodies of Turkish troops had been recently massed along the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, expressed his anxiety lest it should be the intention of the Porte to send these troops into the interior of the province, the Turkish Government having so pointedly intimated that they could not regard the European Commission as possessing any authority under the Berlin Treaty to fetter the discretion of the Governor-General in the matter.

I observed, in reply, that after the European Powers had unanimously agreed that for a definite period it should not be competent for the Governor-General to order the advance of Turkish troops, except with the consent of the majority of the Commission, I did not think that such an eventuality as he referred to was likely to occur otherwise than in the manner provided for; but, I added, if millions of cartridges were being distributed amongst the population in the unauthorized way reported, he must not be surprised if the Sultan's Government should, in self-defence, endeavour to put a stop to such unjustifiable proceedings by immediately garrisoning Bourgas and other frontier places.

M. de Giers concluded by saying that he was quite convinced that the English Government was actuated by a loyal and honourable spirit, and that it desired the good government and tranquillity of the province, and that those whom he really feared were the Austrians, who were evidently fomenting troubles for their own purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 32.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 345.) *St. Petersburgh, July 28, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that to-day M. de Giers read me a telegram from General Stolipine, announcing the complete evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the Russian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 33.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 347.) *St. Petersburgh, July 28, 1879.*

My Lord,

I BEG to thank your Lordship for the receipt of the copy of Colonel Clarke's map of the localities through which the new frontier between Russia and Turkey in Asia is to pass.

Provided with this instrument, I waited to-day upon M. de Giers, who was attended by an officer from the Intelligence Department armed also with a map of the same district, which had just been sent home to the Russian Foreign Office from the Caucasus. On comparing these two maps, however, it at once became apparent that the supposed identical lines laid down upon them did not coincide.

The red line on Colonel Clarke's map, noted as representing the boundary agreed upon between the Russian and Turkish Commissioners, terminated on the Russian map at a spot a little to the north of the parallel of Karaourgan, and at a distance of six versts from that place, instead of one, as noted by Colonel Clarke.

No other lines were laid down upon the Russian map at all, and when I again explained to M. de Giers the nature of the difficulty which had arisen between the British Commissioner and his Russian colleague, as to the point at which the former claimed the right of intervention, M. de Giers appeared as ignorant as heretofore of the real gist of the controversy.

Under these circumstances, it was no good continuing the discussion, and M. de Giers suggested that I should give him another day to re-examine the papers forwarded by Prince Labanoff.

The Russians are undoubtedly very anxious to hasten the work of delimitation, and I do not think that the extraordinary absence of the necessary materials for enabling M. de Giers to apprehend the question is at all designed. It seems to have arisen simply from carelessness on the part of those commissioned to provide the necessary information.

Colonel Clarke's contention is so manifestly reasonable, and in accordance both with the letter and the spirit of the Berlin Treaty, that I have no doubt, when once M. de Giers understands the matter, we shall have no difficulty in arriving at a satisfactory settlement of the dispute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 34.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 349.) *St. Petersburgh, July 28, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that M. de Giers has expressed to me his earnest desire to obtain your Lordship's consent to that portion of the Montenegrin frontier in respect of which the Commissioners are not in accord, being delimitated provisionally by temporary marks placed along whatever line the majority of voices may determine. These marks to be maintained *pendente lite*, and the line they indicate to be taken as the temporary frontier, while different and more permanent erections shall indicate those portions of the boundary upon which the Commissioners have been able definitely to agree.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 35.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 354.) *St. Petersburgh, July 29, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract in translation by Mr. Michell from a Saratoff newspaper, giving an account of the arrival in the Government of Saratoff of certain Circassian families who had been sentenced to deportation thither.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Newspaper Extract.

A SARATOFF paper states that a party of Lesgins from the Samursk district in the Caucasus, and who had been sentenced to deportation to the Province of Saratoff, arrived at their destination on the $\frac{2nd}{14th}$ July. The paper says this is the first detachment

of exiles that has arrived, and that it consists of 150 families. A further and more considerable number of Lesgins are on their way, and will arrive at Saratoff in a few days. These Circassians have been deported for taking part in insurrectionary movements in the Caucasus during the late Russo-Turkish war.

St. Petersburgh, July 23, 1879.

No. 36.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 357.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy taken from the "Agence Russe" of the telegram addressed by General Stolipine to the Minister of War immediately after the departure of the last Russian soldier out of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

LE "Messiger du Gouvernement" publie, dans son numéro de ce matin, le télégramme suivant, adressé au Ministre de la Guerre par le Lieutenant-Général, en date de Bourgas:—

"Le $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet, après le départ de Bourgas du dernier soldat du 9e Corps, je monte en bateau, laissant la contrée en pleine tranquillité. Les adieux que fait le peuple sont enthousiastes; tous les habitants, sans distinction, y prennent part. Après le service divin un repas est organisé pour les soldats et les officiers; quantité de Bulgares sont venus des villages pour participer à cette ovation."

No. 37.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 359.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying translation of a letter from a correspondent of the "Golos," published in that newspaper, in which severe comment is made on the action of the Bulgarian authorities at Varna for not protecting the Turks against the outrages of the Bulgarians.

The writer of the above-mentioned letter seems to fear reprisals on the part of the Turks after the departure of the Russians from Varna.

I would call your Lordship's attention to the passages in the inclosure marked with a red line.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Abstract from Article in the "Golos."

(Translation.)

THE "Golós" of the $\frac{1}{13}$th July, 1879, No. 195, publishes a letter from its correspondent in Bulgaria, descriptive of the general condition of the Principality after the war. In this communication the following passages occur with reference to the existing relations between the Bulgarian and Turkish populations:—

"... Everything at Varna bears a European air, and Asia is on her best behaviour. Is it for long? Under a European exterior purely Asiatic feelings animate the inhabitants of Varna, and the various nationalities which form its population are almost at daggers drawn. If our troops were not present they would long since have broken out in open hostility, and when the soldiers leave the present armistice can hardly be of long duration. The Turks are dissatisfied; they murmur and cherish feelings of animosity. So far everything has gone well. If there is no artificial incitement, and if Prince Alexander is capable of restraining the natural, although injudicious, outbursts of his subjects, in all probability nothing serious is to be anticipated in the future.

"... There is something ominous, however, in the air. Unfortunately the Bulgarian authorities do nothing to avert the danger, but seemingly court it. They oppress the Turks, allow open pillage of Turkish houses, and, what creates the worst impression, allow Turkish women to be insulted with impunity, and the privacy of the harem to be violated, paying no attention to the complaints of the Turks, and purposely ignoring the unseemly conduct of their own people. Agitation increases not daily but hourly, and the Turks, who, according to all Russian accounts, evince a friendly feeling towards us, declare aloud that as soon as the Russians shall depart they will show the Bulgarians that they have commenced to play the part of tyrants too soon.

"Such expressions are heard throughout the whole country, and not in Varna alone. Masses of Turks and Greeks fly to the hills, where they form bands, which increase in numbers daily. ... Robberies are of such frequent occurrence that some roads are quite impassable. The neighbourhood of Turtukai, Rasgrad, Silistria, and Eskidjumi teem with armed robbers, who not only fall on travellers, but also on villages, &c. ...

"That the Turkish population is well-armed is beyond all doubt. ... Arms have been distributed among them, and have been carefully secreted. The Bulgarian authorities do nothing but excite and exasperate everybody. Even our own Russians unanimously declare that they abuse their power beyond measure. No one blames them for this. It is natural that people who have suffered under a ferocious and barbarous yoke should endeavour to revenge themselves on their former oppressors. ...

"However natural these reprisals may be, they are, nevertheless, injudicious and dangerous, and the educated Bulgarians should remember this and restrain their fellow-countrymen. At present, thanks especially to the incitement of the Greeks, trifling matters are made pretexts for dissension and discontent. ..."

No. 38.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 361.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July* 30, 1879.

IN previous despatches I have informed your Lordship that from time to time I have drawn M. de Giers' attention to the continued reports which have been received from Eastern Roumelia of the importation of cartridges, and their distribution amongst the Gymnastic Societies and other irresponsible bodies.

It is unnecessary for me to trouble your Lordship with the arguments with which I have reinforced my remonstrances against these unjustifiable proceedings.

In reply, M. de Giers has never ceased to assure me, as I believe with perfect truth, that this Government has been in no way privy to anything of the kind, that the Minister of War has never authorized such proceedings, and that he cannot believe that quantities of ammunition upon such a scale as that reported by Consul Michell could have been disposed of without his knowledge. The Emperor is also equally incredulous as to the correctness of the facts reported. It is possible, M. de Giers admits, that a small number of cartridges may have been left behind by the evacuating troops, but not the millions stated.

Having again impressed upon M. de Giers the extreme improbability of Consul Michell's Reports being incorrect, I have now the satisfaction of informing you that his Excellency read to me this morning a despatch addressed by the order of the Emperor to Prince Lobanoff, calling his attention to the facts reported by Mr. Michell, and requesting him in very peremptory terms not only to discountenance the proceedings complained of, but, should the Commission and the other Powers desire it, to

arrange for the cartridges now recently consigned to private individuals being placed at once at the disposal of the Governor-General of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 39.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 364.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 30, 1879.*

IN conversation with M. de Giers to-day, his Excellency told me that the Emperor wished me to inform your Lordship of his great anxiety lest evil consequences should result from the recent decision of the European Commission to put the postal and telegraphic services in the hands of Turkish to the exclusion of native officials in Eastern Roumelia.

The Russian Government is not yet aware, however, of the reasons which determined the Commission to take this decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 40.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 365.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 30, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose you copy of the tracing on the Russian map of the delimitation of the new frontier between Russia and Turkey in Asia, so far as it has been agreed upon between the Turkish and Russian Commissioners.

On the original shown to me the red and yellow line did not extend beyond the point "X," which purports to correspond with the "X" marked on Colonel Clarke's map.

As I have only this moment received this tracing—and the messenger being on the point of starting—I have not had time to ascertain what is the meaning of the plain red line which continues the red and yellow dotted line.

In fact, when I again waited upon M. de Giers to-day to go into the subject he frankly confessed to me that, in consequence of his continued absence from St. Petersburgh since I had last seen him, he had not been able to resume the study of the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 41.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 383. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 30, 1879.*

M. STOURDZA, the Roumanian Minister of Finance, will return to-day to Bucharest. He came back yesterday from Kissingen, where he had gone for the purpose of speaking to Prince Bismarck upon the subject of the Roumanian difficulty.

I have reason to believe that his Highness declined to enter into any discussion on questions of detail, but let it be very clearly understood that the Powers interested in this matter were acting in perfect harmony, and that it would therefore be perilous for Roumania to place herself in opposition to their views with regard to the execution of the Berlin Treaty.

From what M. Stourdza has told me, I imagine that he will submit to his Government the necessity of admitting the principle of religious liberty recorded in the Treaty as well as the immediate emancipation of the several classes of Israelites

specified in the document inclosed in my despatch No. 375 of the 26th instant; and, as regards those who would not be included in these categories, he will propose that a law should be passed allowing foreigners in general, not Jews only, who have been born in the country, the right to apply at once to Parliament for naturalization, without having to wait during ten years, as has been suggested, before their claim would be taken into consideration, while in the case of Jews not born in Roumania this term of ten years should be considerably reduced.

I learned from the Roumanian Minister that there was every hope of his being able to arrange satisfactorily the difficulty which had arisen with respect to the purchase of the Roumanian railways from the German Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 42.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 384. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 2, 1879.*

YESTERDAY I learnt, on the very best authority, that before leaving Berlin M. Stourdza signed a Convention for the purchase of the railways now in the hands of a German Company, and that it will probably be submitted to the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies about the middle of next month. This Convention has been approved by the bankers through whom the transfer of shares will be managed; and as it can be passed, I understand, in the Lower House by a simple majority of votes, those interested in the transaction consider that there is a fair chance of its being approved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 43.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 385.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 2, 1879.*

I THINK it only fair to mention to your Lordship that, when speaking to me about Roumanian affairs, M. Stourdza referred, on more than one occasion, to the high esteem in which Her Majesty's Representative at Bucharest was held throughout the country.

Mr. White, he said, had, by his ability and straightforward conduct, won the good-will, not only of public men, but of all those with whom he had been brought into contact; and the Roumanian Government considered themselves most fortunate in having to deal with a foreign Representative who was so worthy of the position he occupied, and so thoroughly deserved the confidence placed in him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 44.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 387. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 2, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 365 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to state that, on my alluding confidentially, in the course of conversation with Herr von Radowitz, to the views which the German Ambassador had expressed to your Lordship on the subject of Russia being represented on the proposed Commission of Liquidation in Egypt, his Excellency remarked with some energy that they might perhaps be Count Münster's own private views, but that his instructions contained nothing whatever to lead him to suppose they were the views of his own Government, which, Herr von Radowitz assured me, were entirely in accordance with those enter-

tained by your Lordship as regards the Powers to be represented on the Commission and the number of members to be assigned to each.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 45.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 3, 1879.*

GIERS fully admits our right to be consulted in the determination of the point west of Karaourgan, and agrees to placing it on a parallel of that place.

No. 46.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 3, 1879.*

LABANOFF has telegraphed to Giers that there is no such thing as a 1-verst Russian map, and denies that any map was communicated to Clarke.

No. 47.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 3, 1879.*

SELECTION of Portew as the bearer of the Berat is unlucky, because of his low official rank, and is regarded by the Prince as an intentional slight put upon him by the Porte.

No. 48.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 3, 1879.*

EXTENSIVE outbreaks of brigandage in the Toozlik Deliosman and the eastern districts have necessitated the proclamation of martial law there, and the concentration of troops. I send translation of the Proclamation with [?] by post.

No. 49.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 3, 1879.*

HER Majesty's Commissioner desires me to inform your Lordship that the Ottoman Minister at Belgrade has informed Boundary Commission that the Porte has reappointed General Yahya Pasha as Turkish Commissioner in the place of Djevad Bey. The Pasha is expected to arrive at Belgrade this week.

No answer has been received from the Ottoman or the Austrian Governments respecting frontier marked at Propolac (*sic*). Servia has accepted.

No. 50.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 4, 1879, 12·25 P.M.*

FOREIGN Minister took his departure yesterday, notwithstanding pressure brought to bear upon him to give it up as unadvisable, after Prince Bismarck had so condescendingly given his recommendations to Minister of Finance on the Jewish question, and that, it appears, with the concurrence of the Austrian Chancellor.

Intended visit of Foreign Minister to St. Petersburgh, where there is little desire naturally to have Jewish difficulty satisfactorily solved [four groups wrong] and considered also ill-timed.

(Copy of above sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna.)

No. 51.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1021.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 4, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of the 29th ultimo, reporting that the Sultan seemed disposed, upon your suggestion, to offer a high command in Kurdistan to Baker Pasha, who is now in this country.

I have since had an interview with that officer, and as the result of our conversation, I have informed your Excellency, by telegraph, that if the command now offered by the Sultan to Baker Pasha and the powers conferred upon him are sufficiently extensive to ensure his freedom of action, the appointment would be accepted by him, and upon learning that it had been confirmed he would at once return to Constantinople.

If your Excellency can obtain the appointment upon the conditions I have named, it would be desirable that the promise should be given in writing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 52.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1025.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 4, 1879.*

I UNDERSTAND that instructions have been sent to Count Zichy to urge the Porte to use every endeavour to arrest the disturbances which threaten to occur in the neighbourhood of Prisrend; and I request that your Excellency will give all the support in your power to the representations of your Austrian colleague.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 53.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul St. John.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 4, 1879.*

THE reports received by the Austrian Government from Prisrend lead them to believe that the Christians in that district are in imminent danger at the hands of fanatics among the Albanians, and they have expressed the hope to that of Her Majesty that a British Consular Officer should be sent to Prisrend, who should by his presence assist to avert the threatened calamity.

Being of opinion that the circumstances to which the Imperial and Royal Government have called my attention are of a very serious character, and being anxious as far as possible to afford protection to the Christians, whose lives are thus menaced, I have to request that you will at once proceed to Prisrend. Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte has been instructed to procure for you all necessary facilities to enable you to take up your position as Consul at that place.

Your appointment there being for the present temporary only, you will retain the salary and allowances attached to your present post as Consul at Ragusa, receiving a (subsistence) allowance of 1*l.* a day, and your travelling expenses in addition.

During the period that you are so employed, the salary of the Acting Consul at Ragusa will be paid by this Office, but you will continue to defray the office expenses of your Consulate at Ragusa in accordance with the Regulations laid down at p. 44 of the General Consular Instructions.

It will be your duty to make yourself acquainted with the course of events in the districts in the neighbourhood of Prisrend, and to furnish me with full reports of what comes under your notice, and you will use your utmost endeavours to discourage lawless acts directed against the Christians, and to afford them every protection in your power from insult and outrage.

In conclusion, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter I have received from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at this Court, inclosing a translation of a Report by the Austrian Consul at Prisrend, describing the state of affairs in that region.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 54.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Montgelas.

(Private.)
Dear Count Montgelas, *Foreign Office, August 4, 1879.*

WE have no information on the subject of the troubles to which you refer. We have, in accordance with the wish of the Austro-Hungarian Government, given instructions to a Consular officer to proceed to Prisrend; but he has not yet had time to reach it.

I will telegraph to Sir H. Layard, instructing him to support Count Zichy's representations to the Porte.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 55.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office August 4, 1879, 7·25 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 584, if the command in Kurdistan is offered to General Baker, and the powers conferred on him are sufficiently extensive to ensure his freedom of action, he would accept the appointment, and would return to Constantinople as soon as it was confirmed. If you can obtain the promise it should be in writing.

No. 56.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 4, 1879, 10·30 P.M.*

COUNT ZICHY is instructed to urge Porte to take what measures it can to arrest disturbances near Prisrend.

Pray support his representations.

No. 57.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 38. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 15th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the representations of the Acting Russian Consul-General at Salonica to the Governor-General in regard to outrages which, it is said, have been perpetrated by the Kirserdars in the district of Kiupruli (Velessa) in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, July 15, 1879.*

HAVING heard that M. Ulianof, the Acting Russian Consul-General at Salonica, has called the attention of the Governor-General to outrages said to have been perpetrated by the Kirserdars and irregulars in the district of Kiupruli (Velessa), I saw Refaat Pasha on the subject.

His Excellency told me that, having received from M. Ulianof a short time ago a representation in reference to the misconduct of the Kirserdars, he commissioned a member of the local administration (Nouri Bey) to proceed to Kiupruli and make an inquiry into the matter.

The Kirserdars are accused of having ravished a young Bulgarian girl, and of levying blackmail from the villagers, and subjecting them to cruel injuries and insults.

I expressed to the Pasha the hope that the inquiry he has instituted will be carried out in a searching manner, and that the guilty parties will not escape punishment.

He replied that he has given M. Ulianof an assurance to that effect. He also promised to let me know the result of the inquiry when completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 58.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 39. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch, with copy of its inclosure, which I addressed on the 20th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the alleged non-execution of the Amnesty Decree in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, July 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Excellency copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Longworth, of Larissa, relative to the alleged non-observance of the 5th clause of last year's Amnesty Decree in regard to the remission of one year's taxes to the villages and farms in Thessaly that have suffered from the late insurrection.

My Reports to your Excellency from Larissa of the 6th August and 2nd November, 1878, upon the execution of the provisions of the Amnesty Decree, furnish the necessary explanations of the clause in question as proposed by Mr. Consul Merlin and myself in my telegram to your Excellency of the 3rd May, 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Larissa, July 9, 1879.

Sir,

DURING my three months' residence in Larissa several complaints have reached me from Christian sources of the non-observance of last year's amnesty in the sense and spirit of the 5th Article.

In order to understand these complaints clearly, and my proceedings in regard to them in a true light, I think it necessary to produce the three somewhat different versions which exist of this provision:

1. That contained in your despatch to me of the 20th May, 1878; "5. Remission of one year's taxes to the inhabitants of the Christian and Turkish villages, the houses of whom may have been destroyed during the insurrection."

2. A translation in French of the one furnished by the Porte to the Turkish authorities of Thessaly: "5. Ne seront perçus pour une année les verghis des villages Turcs et Chrétiens qui ont subi des pertes pendant l'insurrection."

3. A copy of the one transmitted by the Hellenic Government to the Greek Consulates at Larissa and Volo: "5. Rémission des impôts pour la durée d'une année en faveur des villages et fermes tant Musulman que Chrétien situés dans les localités insurgées et qui auraient été endommagés."

The inconsistency which exists between the above three constructions has exposed this promise of the Porte to the following questions, and has thus rendered it here a subject of controversy:

1. To what villages is this remission applicable? To those only which had been destroyed, or also to those which had been pillaged?

2. From what taxes should the favoured villages be exempt? Only from the income tax ("verghi"), or also from the rest, such as the military tax ("bedel"), sheep tax ("gellep"), and the tithes ("ashars").

I need scarcely say that I adhered exclusively to the English text, and that I advocated for the immunity in favour of such villages only as had suffered destruction; for the which I have succeeded in obtaining hitherto not only an exemption from verghi, but from all taxation.

Among several other villages, a deputation from Macrinitza and Portaria also called at this Vice-Consulate in the beginning of last month, to solicit my aid in obtaining an exemption from last year's taxes. But I was obliged to refuse them my interference, as neither of these villages had any of their houses burned or otherwise destroyed during the insurrection, a fact which I have already amply represented in my Reports dated respectively the 28th October and the 23rd November, 1878.

On the 30th June some of the principal members of the Greek community brought the subject again before me, begging that I would at least use my influence in behalf of Macrinitza and Portaria.

They maintained that they were villages which had been pillaged during the late troubles, and that to make them pay whilst others which had only a hut or two burned were exempt is neither fair nor just. I reminded them that such an argument may be encountered by the 6th clause of the provisions of the amnesty, which states that all facilities were to be given by the Greek and Turkish Governments for the recovery and restitution of stolen property.

They proceeded next to intimate that the instructions furnished to the Turkish authorities and the Greek Consulates were favourable to their view of the question. I admitted this as perfectly true, and eventually promised them to telegraph for more explicit instructions.

On the same day, therefore, I sent you the following in cypher:—

"Turkish, Greek, and English copies of fifth condition of amnesty conflict. Are pillaged villages also exempted, and from what taxes if not from all?"

The next day your answer reached me, the sense of which I at once communicated to those it concerns. It was worded thus:—

"The condition you refer to is as follows:—One year's remission of taxes to burned Christian and Turkish villages and farms. Greek and Turkish Governments to give every facility for recovery and restitution of stolen cattle and other property to their owners."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 59.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 40. Political.)

My Lord,

Salonica, July 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of a despatch which I addressed on the 20th instant to Sir Henry Layard relative to the quiet state of affairs in Thessaly; and to the energetic action of the military authorities against the brigands in the district of Caraferia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, July 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Longworth states in his letter to me of the 16th instant, "that the Province of Thessaly is now marvellously quiet."

I have also the satisfaction to report to your Excellency that Colonel Synge, who arrived here on the 18th instant on his way to Constantinople, has informed me that Nedjib Pasha, the Commandant of Caraferia, is taking every measure for the suppression of brigandage, and that his energetic movements promise success.

Colonel Synge also states that the military authorities are withdrawing the Kirserdars and irregulars from that district, and are sending them in small detachments to their homes.

I am further informed by Mr. Routh that Nedjib Pasha affords the necessary facilities and protection to Messrs. Hanson and Co.'s mining interests in districts of Caraferia and Catterina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 60.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 41. Political.)

My Lord,

Salonica, July 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a further despatch from Mr. Longworth with reference to the estimate he gave of the cavalry force in Thessaly in his report No. 9 of the 1st instant, copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 32 of the 4th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, July 9, 1879.*

WITH reference to my Report of the 1st instant, I regret to say that I therein committed a gross error as regards the number of cavalry in this province.

I beg, therefore, to avail myself of the first opportunity to correct this error, and to explain how it occurred.

Whilst drawing out my notes in the form of a Report on the day the mail left Larissa, I observed that I had entirely omitted to obtain information as to the number of cavalry in Thessaly. I consequently at the last moment made hasty inquiries on the subject, and was informed that the cavalry regiments were complete, and that they were distributed—two at Larissa, and the rest in the districts of Tirnovo, Carditza, Tricalla, and Armyro.

It was only the other day, on recopying the Report for the Office, that I detected the unlikelihood of there being more than three or four cavalry regiments, and on making further inquiries my misgivings were confirmed.

I find that the following is their correct number and distribution :—

	Regiments.	Men.
Larissa	2	1,400
Armyro	½	200
Carditza	½	200
Tricalla	½	200
Tirnovo	½	200
Total	3	2,200

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 61.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 45. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleih, July 22, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that the Mussulman inhabitants of the village of Minich have addressed to me a petition, praying that they may be annexed to the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, July 22, 1879.*

IN my despatch of the 10th of July, 1878, I had the honour to transmit to your Excellency a petition addressed to me by the inhabitants of Calmoun, praying for annexation to the Lebanon, and I have now the honour to transmit (with a translation) a similar petition addressed to me by the inhabitants of el-Minich, or Minich, a large village situated to the north-east of Tripoli, of which, I am informed, the population exceeds 3,000, who are nearly all Mussulmans.

Although I do not think it would be good policy to grant the request contained in this petition for annexation to the Lebanon, I submit it to your Excellency's consideration for such action as you may think advisable to take in the matter.

If this petition, which I guarantee is genuine and spontaneous, serves no other purpose than proving how highly the benefits enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Lebanon are appreciated by the surrounding population of the vilayet, it will be a useful document, as it tends to show the utter falsity of the charges which have been brought against the administration of his Excellency Rustem Pasha.

What strengthens so much this argument is the fact that the petitioners both at Calmoun and el-Minich are Mussulmans, who would certainly not demand to be placed under an administration at the head of which is placed a Christian Governor-General, and of which the Christian functionaries are in a proportion of at least ten to one as compared to the non-Christian sects.

This fact I believe to be without parallel in the history of Turkey, and is the more remarkable that the inhabitants of Minich express their readiness to continue to pay the same amount of taxation as they pay to the vilayet which is about three-fold that which is paid by the Lebanese, to say nothing of the injustice and oppression they have to submit to in the collection of the imposts, and even to submit to an augmentation, provided they are admitted to the enjoyment of the same privileges as their more fortunate neighbours under an almost exclusive Christian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Petition.

(Traduction.)
M. le Consul-Général,

NOUS prenons la liberté de vous faire part de l'état malheureux où nous nous trouvons par suite des injustices et des vexations dont nous sommes l'objet et de l'indifférence avec laquelle on s'occupe de la suite due à nos plaintes. Nous avons beau nous plaindre, personne n'écoute.

Comme il n'y a pas longtemps nous faisions partie du Liban ainsi que le constatent les ordres que nous possédons des Emirs de la Montagne, nous sollicitons, M. le Consul-Général, par votre entremise, le Gouvernement que vous représentez, de nous appuyer de manière à nous faire annexer au Liban, c'est alors que nous vivrons tranquillement chez nous; nos femmes, nos biens et nos troupeaux seront en pleine sécurité.

Quant aux impôts que notre village fournit au Trésor Impérial, ceux-ci peuvent être déduits de la subvention que le Gouvernement paie au Liban, et ainsi le Trésor n'aura rien à perdre. Nous accepterions même une augmentation sur les impôts actuels de notre village pourvu que nous puissions être soustraits aux injustices auxquelles nous sommes assujettis.

Si pourtant notre demande ne peut pas être admise, nous vous prions de vouloir bien prendre telles mesures que vous voudrez pour nous assurer notre repos.

(Suivent les 57 signatures et cachets.)

No. 62.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 655.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 548 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose translation of a letter, with its inclosures in original, from some persons calling themselves the Cretans of Nauplia and Minoa, on the subject of statements made by Consul Sandwith, and published in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 62.

M. Pappadaqui to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Traduction.)

Excellence,

LES Crétois qui habitent Nauplie et Minoa, et dont plusieurs ont été Chefs et Députés pendant ces deux dernières insurrections de l'île contre la tyrannie Ottomane, m'ont envoyé la déclaration ci-incluse, avec la prière de la remettre au Ministre de Sa Majesté la Reine à Athènes.

L'objet de cette déclaration est de réfuter les assertions du Consul de Sa Majesté la Reine à la Canée contenues dans les documents concernant la Crète et publiées dernièrement dans le Blue Book Anglais, assertions qui touchent de bien près l'honneur du peuple Crétois; à savoir, qu'un grand nombre d'insurgés influents n'attendraient qu'un signal pour arborer le pavillon Anglais d'un bout à l'autre de l'île.

Comme son Excellence le Ministre Anglais à Athènes a fait répondre, il y a quelques jours, par sa Chancellerie à une sollicitation pareille des Crétois d'Athènes, du Pirée, de Patras, et de Laurium, qu'il ne pouvait recevoir des pétitions, dont l'objet échappait à sa compétence, j'ai pensé qu'il vaudrait mieux envoyer la déclaration susdite à votre Excellence, au lieu d'en solliciter la remise à Athènes, et de la prier, au nom de mes commettants, de bien vouloir la transmettre à son Gouvernement Royal.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) A. E. PAPPADAQUI,
Représentant des Crétois de Nauplie.

No. 63.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 657.)

Therapia, July 24, 1879.

My Lord,

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL MICHELL, having informed me that Ahmed Agha of Bartyn, and Mitto Bektash, two of the persons who were condemned to death for participation in the "Bulgarian atrocities," and whose sentence was subsequently commuted to perpetual exile, had been allowed to return to their homes, I have pointed out to Caratheodory Pasha the very painful impression that their reappearance in Roumelia cannot fail to make upon the Christian populations and upon public opinion in Europe. His Excellency observed that as a general amnesty had been proclaimed, and a large number of Bulgarians convicted of crimes and imprisoned had been released and allowed to go back to their country, it was only fair that the same privilege should be extended to Mussulmans. He made, however, a note of the return of Ahmed Agha and Mitto Bektash, with which, he said, he had not previously been made acquainted, and promised to call the attention of his colleagues to the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 64.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 667.)

Therapia, July 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a communication which I have received from the Porte relative to the proceedings of the Commission sent to inquire into the affairs of Zeitoun. I have sent a copy of this document to Consul Henderson and Lieutenant Chermside for any observations they may have to make on the statements contained in it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Statement by the Zeitoun Commissioners.

LE voyage à Zeitoun des Commissaires Impériaux a porté ses fruits. Plus de 500 hommes armés, cédant aux conseils qu'on leur avait fait parvenir, ont regagné leurs villages, où ils vaquent à leurs affaires. Aujourd'hui l'insurrection n'est représentée que par Babik et ses quelques acolytes, dont le nombre est de trente ou quarante.

Le Conseil d'Administration de Zeitoun vient de se former. Les électeurs désignés par les habitants de toute classe ont choisi, pour ce Conseil, quatre membres, dont deux Musulmans et deux autres non-Musulmans.

Le Naïb (Juge) de Zeitoun, qui avait dû, pendant les derniers événements, se rendre à Constantinople, a été provisoirement remplacé par Yahia Effendi, de Marache, en Naïb de Halissa. Le nouveau titulaire jouit de l'estime et de la confiance publique.

Il a été institué des Tribunaux Civils et Correctionnels de Première Instance. D'après la loi, la section civile doit être présidée par le Naïb, quant à la section correctionnelle, c'est Omer Effendi, de Marache, qui a été désigné pour la présider provisoirement. L'une et l'autre de ces sections auront deux membres Musulmans et deux membres Chrétiens, ainsi que deux greffiers.

D'après les données statistiques qui ont été recueillies sur les lieux, le district de Zeitoun compte une population mâle de 8,000 âmes, dont 3,751 Musulmans et le reste (soit 4,442) Chrétiens. Dans le but d'assurer l'esprit de concorde parmi cette population, les Commissaires ont subdivisé le district en quatre communes, sous la dénomination de Zeitoun, de Tumouz d'Ichor, et de Caratope. Deux de ces communes sont exclusivement Musulmanes. Chacune a eu, en proportion de son étendue, de six à huit membres.

Beaucoup d'autres institutions ont été inaugurées. Les autorités et les Tribunaux nouvellement constitués fonctionnent déjà régulièrement.

Les plaintes élevées par les districts de Zeitoun et de Bazardjik, à propos de l'impôt foncier et du "Temettu," ont amené l'institution d'une enquête légale par les soins de Commissions *ad hoc*. Quatre membres Musulmans et Chrétiens font partie de chacune de ces Commissions.

Le Chef du Bureau Cadastral à Alep a été chargé de faire des études sur les moyens de modérer les distances. Les Commissaires Impériaux se réservent de soumettre à la Sublime Porte la décision qui sera prise à cet égard.

Vu l'impopularité des Zaptiés tant Musulmans que Chrétiens de Zeitoun, on va procéder à un tirage destiné à remplacer ceux qui méritent d'être renvoyés par des gens honnêtes et offrant de bonnes cautions. C'est Ruchdi Bey, Ali Bey d'Alep, qui a été mandé à Zeitoun pour faire ce tirage et former un nouveau corps de Zaptiés, bien entendu dans les limites de l'ancienne organisation.

Les fondements de la caserne et de l'hôtel de l'autorité locale ont été jetés en présence d'une foule considérable. La cérémonie a été solennelle; des moutons ont été immolés. Le Naïb et le Catholicos de Lis, qui se trouve actuellement à Zeitoun, ont dit des prières pour la gloire et la préservation des jours précieux de Sa Majesté.

Le jour de leur départ de Zeitoun, les Commissaires Impériaux se sont rendus à l'hôtel provisoire de l'autorité locale, où s'étaient réunis tous les fonctionnaires, les Chefs spirituels, et les Notables. Aux Conseils des Commissaires, l'assistance a répondu par des acclamations et de vœux pour Sa Majesté.

Mazhar Pacha et Nourian Effendi ont pris soin de recommander au Caïmacam, comme au Commandant des troupes Impériales, d'agir énergiquement contre les débris de l'insurrection; de faire connaître à Marache les noms de ceux des insurgés spontanément soumis qui méritaient le pardon; de juger ceux d'entre eux que l'autorité croirait devoir mettre aux arrêts, sauf à en référer à Marache; et, enfin, de veiller au maintien du bon ordre et de la sécurité publique. Après avoir fait des recommandations, les Commissaires ont quitté Zeitoun accompagnés jusqu'à une certaine distance par de nombreuses personnes.

Les instructions supérieures relatives à l'amnistie sont ponctuellement exécutées; les Chefs d'insurgés sont exceptés de cette faveur. On a soin de maintenir le droit individuel intact.

Vingt et un détenus ont été acquittés par la Commission de Marache. Il reste encore en prison 131 hommes; 11 sont Chefs d'insurgés. Les autres, qui figurent dans l'affaire comme acolytes, ont été traduits devant le Tribunal de Première Instance de Marache.

Les Commissaires repoussent énergiquement l'accusation d'avoir contribué, dans l'accomplissement de leur mission, à accentuer l'animosité mutuelle des Musulmans et des Chrétiens, ou à les exciter les uns contre les autres; au contraire, ils ont tenu, dans tous leurs actes, à maintenir l'esprit de concorde et de solidarité. C'est ainsi que dans ces derniers temps on n'a eu à constater aucun incident fâcheux.

Pour ce qui est du Consul d'Angleterre, on comprendra aisément pourquoi il s'agite tant lorsqu'on aura su qu'il avait fait espérer aux Zeitouniens certains priviléges. La non-réalisation des promesses, telles que le remplacement par la conscription de l'impôt militaire, la restitution des armes recueillies du temps de Kiamil Pacha, l'élargissement de tous les prisonniers Zeitouniens, l'extension de l'amnistie jusqu'aux insurgés qui se trouvent encore dans les montagnes, l'abandon de la construction de la caserne et du projet relatif au logement des troupes, la désignation d'un Caïmacam indigène pour administrer Zeitouni, la remise des arriérés s'élevant à plus de 200,000 piastres; l'adoption d'un autre mode d'imposition, &c. &c. La non-réalisation de toutes ces promesses expose naturellement Mr. Henderson à de vives critiques.

No. 65.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 5.*)

(No. 669.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 27, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consular Agent at Janina upon matters of interest in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Mr. Kypriotis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Janina, July 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that on Sunday last, at about 1 o'clock Turkish time (8 P.M.), fourteen Turco-Albanian brigands entered the house of Costaloki, of Sophiki, village of Polwpozoni, about 8 hours distant from Janina, and after plundering his house they carried off his son, and nothing has been heard of them since. I also give you details concerning the appearance of brigands in the following places:—

At Politzas, near Metzovo, twenty-seven brigands, under the leadership of a Christian named Siambau, of Zemcos, district of Zumaico.

At Kalocarthen, between Vovussi and Zagori, another band of forty; and a third band between Ziabanis and Cavalari Zajon.

The latter band is under the command of a certain Kandolo Cormade, who since last year is in prison at Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 66.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 5.*)

(No. 671.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 27, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 667 of the 24th instant, Major Gordon, having brought to my knowledge the fact that Colonel Shakir Bey, the Turkish member of the Eastern Roumelian Delimitation Commission, had presented Ahmed Agha of Bartyn to him and his colleagues, and had invited him to accompany them during a portion of their journey, I have thought it my duty to address a note on the subject to the Porte, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Ambassador has learnt with equal surprise and regret that Ahmed Agha of Bartyn and Mitto Bektash have been allowed to return to their native districts, and that the former is about to be named Kaïmakam of his native town. These two men, together with Achmet Teharan of Karabonner, were condemned to death by a Turkish Commission, assisted by a British delegate, for their share in the massacres of the Bulgarians at Batek and elsewhere in the year 1876. Her Majesty's Ambassador pressed for the execution of their sentence, which would have gone far to calm the indignation that their crimes had caused throughout the civilized world. But the Porte, rather than inflict a just punishment on these three criminals, preferred to plunge Turkey into a war, the disastrous results of which are unhappily too well known.

A formal and distinct assurance was, however, given to Her Majesty's Government that they should be imprisoned for life, and it was understood they were sent to Tripoli to undergo their sentences. They appear to have been unconditionally released.

Major Gordon, the British member of the Commission for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia, has addressed an official complaint to Her Majesty's Embassy that Colonel Shakir Bey, the Turkish Commissioner, presented Ahmed Agha to the Commission without informing his colleagues of the man's antecedents, although it can be proved that he was well acquainted with them, and allowed him to accompany the Commission for some days during its march.

It is not for Her Majesty's Ambassador to say whom a Colonel in His Imperial Majesty's Service may choose for his companions, but he cannot but express his extreme astonishment that Shakir Bey should have introduced to a British officer a man who had been convicted of murder and of having been the author of a horrible massacre. Her Majesty's Ambassador is not surprised that Major Gordon should have felt great indignation at the conduct of his Turkish colleague in this respect, and should have brought it to the notice of Her Majesty's Government through Her Majesty's Embassy.

No. 67.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 5.*)

(No. 673.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 28, 1879.

GENERAL HAMLEY having represented to me the importance of dispatching, without delay, a party of English officers to Salonica in order to survey a portion of the new Bulgarian frontier, I have addressed a letter to Captain Pusey, of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern," now stationed at Constantinople, asking him to convey them there. I have the honour to inclose copy of my letter and of Captain Pusey's reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

Sir A. H. Layard to Captain Pusey.

Therapia, July 27, 1879.

Sir,

GENERAL HAMLEY and the other members of the Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria are desirous of sending off without delay a party of English officers to survey a portion of the country through which the new boundary line is to be traced. It is necessary that these officers should leave for Salonica as soon as possible, and as no steamer leaves for that port before next Saturday, General Hamley has requested me to ask you whether you would convey them in Her Majesty's ship "Bittern." I should be glad if you could do so, as the object of their mission is one of considerable importance, and it is desirable on public

grounds that they should proceed at once to the Bulgarian frontier by the shortest route. I trust, therefore, that you will be able to leave to-morrow with them, returning to Constantinople as soon as you have landed them at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

Captain Pusey to Sir A. H. Layard.

"*Bittern*," *Therapia, July* 27, 1879.

Your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day's date relative to my conveying a party of English officers (members of the Commission for the determination of the frontier of Bulgaria) to Salonica to survey a portion of the country through which the new boundary line is to be traced.

I beg to inform you that in furtherance of your wishes I shall be prepared to leave Constantinople to-morrow (Monday) with the officers of the Commission for Salonica, should I not receive contrary orders from the Admiral Commander-in-chief.

I purpose leaving Therapia for Constantinople at daybreak to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. PUSEY,
Commander and Senior Officer in the Bosphorus.

No. 68.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 5.)

(No. 95.)

Philippopolis, July 23, 1879.

My Lord,

HAVING been informed that Major Gordon, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia, had been taken ill in camp near Batak, and that he required a carriage to bring him to Philippopolis, I sent Mr. Consul Calvert to Batak on the 16th instant for the purpose of assisting him.

Mr. Calvert returned with Major Gordon and Lieutenant de Wolski on the 20th instant, and I have now the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the able and interesting report which he has made to me on the political condition of the district through which he passed.

The information which he obtained respecting the employment of Ahmet Agha of Bartyn by the Ottoman authorities appears to be of more especial importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Consul Calvert to Consul-General Michell.

Philippopolis, July 21, 1879.

Sir,

AS I have already had the honour to report to you verbally, I discovered, unfortunately beyond the possibility of a doubt, during my recent journey to Batak and Tchepina, that the two notorious leaders in the massacre which took place at the former locality in 1876, Ahmet Agha of Bartyn and Metto Bektash, returned to their native district some weeks ago. The guide, a Pomak belonging to the same district, who accompanied me, was the first person who acquainted me with this fact. He informed me incidentally that the two Pomak criminals in question had been pardoned by the Sultan, and had returned from Tripoli, in Barbary, a short time previously, and that Ahmet Agha was about to be appointed Kaimakam of Bartyn, his native town. The man further stated that Ahmet Agha had lately accompanied the Boundary Commission, to whom he had rendered valuable services as a guide in the difficult country they had traversed.

The more closely I questioned my informant the more his statements appeared to me worthy of belief; but I nevertheless determined to make further inquiries on the subject at Tchepina, whither I was proceeding. Several Pomaks whom I questioned at that village confirmed the information given by my guide. The Bulgarian villagers of Tchepina and Batak had likewise heard of the return of Ahmet Agha, but they did not seem to be aware that his release was a matter for surprise. The Bulgarians did not appear to dread his presence in their vicinity, and probably neither they nor the Pomak villagers would have thought of mentioning the circumstance had I not questioned them.

On meeting Major Gordon at Batak, I related to him what had been told me by my guide. Major Gordon and Lieutenant de Wolski confirmed the fact that the Boundary Commission had been accompanied during several days by a Pomak of Bartyn, named Ahmet Agha, who had been introduced to them by Shakir Bey, their Turkish colleague, and Lieutenant de Wolski recollected that Seïfoullah Effendi, an officer of Shakir Bey's staff, had spoken to him while detached from the Commission on survey duty of Ahmet Agha as a bad man, and as having been guilty of massacres in 1876. While admitting Ahmet Agha's bad character and guilt on that occasion, Seïfoullah Effendi had, Lieutenant de Wolski told me, endeavoured to palliate his culpability by observing that he had acted on superior orders, and that the Turks had suffered great provocation from the Bulgarians in 1876.

Neither Major Gordon nor Lieutenant de Wolski had, however, been aware that Ahmet Agha was the leader in the massacre at Batak, and that a Turkish Commission, assisted by a delegate of the British Government, had adjudged him worthy of death, and they expressed great indignation with their Turkish colleague for having brought them into contact with such a criminal.

While on this journey I took considerable pains to ascertain the existing condition of the Bulgarian and Turkish peasantry, and the nature of their present relations towards each other. At Tatar-Bazardjik I was told by persons belonging to neither of the two predominant races that the arrogance previously displayed by the Bulgarians had, to a great extent, disappeared since the departure of the Russians. The majority of the Bulgarian population had, up to quite a recent period, believed that the Russian armies would never withdraw until the total extinction of the Turkish power in Europe, or that, if even those armies temporarily evacuated the country, they would not be disbanded or dispersed until the great project of uniting all the Bulgarians of Turkey under an independent Government had been accomplished. But their confidence in the continued and effectual championship of Russia had not altogether withstood the shock of the departure of the Russian troops. I was told that, since parting with their protectors, the Bulgarians had begun to show less disregard for the rights and feelings of their Turkish and Greek fellow-subjects.

At Peshtera, I saw the "Baïli" of the district, a Bulgarian, who assured me that, on the whole, great tranquillity prevailed within the limits of his jurisdiction. Since he had assumed his present functions, a fortnight before my arrival, a few cases of appropriation of Turkish cattle by Bulgarians had taken place, but he declared that he had in every instance arrested the culprits and been able to restore the stolen animals to their owners.

My subsequent observations in the Rhodope bore out the statements of the "Baïli" as to the general tranquil condition of the country. Most of the Pomak inhabitants of the region I visited had returned to their homes, which had not, as a rule, been destroyed, and everywhere I found Pomaks and Christian Bulgarians engaged peacefully side by side in the labours of the field.

The Pomaks told me that they had not had much cause to complain of their treatment by the Bulgarians since the introduction of the new régime; and I noticed that a spirit approaching to cordiality marked the intercourse between the two sections of the population. The Bulgarians, however, alleged to me that the Pomaks fretted under the new Administration, and were anxiously looking forward to an opportunity of recovering their former supremacy.

During the brief space of time which I spent among the mountain population, the only outward difference observable to me in the respective treatment of Mussulmans and Christians by the authorities was that the latter were, and the former were not, permitted to carry arms. The Bulgarians of all the districts I passed through, both in the Rhodope and in the plain, are armed with Krinka rifles, given them by the Russians, or Martini rifles taken from the Turks. But I have every reason to believe that the Pomaks in the Rhodope districts of Eastern Roumelia also possess arms, though of a make and pattern very inferior to those of the Bulgarians.

The treatment of the Pomaks by the Rhodope Bulgarians during the last eighteen months—mild and forbearing as compared with the persecutions and massacres suffered by the Mussulmans of the plain at the hands of a Bulgarian population which had received infinitely less provocation—is, I think, explicable on two suppositions. The first is that the Bulgarians of Mount Rhodope—those of Batak in particular—are still, to some extent, under the dominion of the terror inspired by the massacre of 1876, and having in their rear a large Pomak population, who have not felt the effects of the Russian occupation, they are careful not to provoke those mountaineers to renewed hostilities. The second hypothesis is that the leaders of the Pan-Bulgarian movement in Eastern Roumelia, who have, in my opinion, been all along responsible for the good or bad treatment of the Mussulman population, fancy that they see their way to the ultimate conversion of the Pomaks into good Bulgarian citizens. Bulgarians in race and language, the Pomaks may be more easily assimilated with the predominating element than the Ottoman Turks of the plain. It is, therefore, considered good policy to make them satisfied with their condition under Bulgarian rulers.

In the district of Peshtera several Pomaks have been this summer employed as tax-gatherers.

With the Turks of the plain, on the other hand, it is thought that any attempt at assimilation on a general scale would be hopeless. Hence their treatment has been regulated with the object of compelling them to quit the country.

In the districts of Batak and Tchepina there are only three gendarmes, but all the Bulgarians able to bear arms have been drilled. The drilling, temporarily suspended during the harvest, is now about to recommence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

P.S. *July 22.*—Since returning to Philippopolis I have found, on inquiry, that several persons in this town have been for some time past aware of the return of Ahmet Agha of Bartyn, and that one of these persons at least has actually written to him.

F. R. J. C.

No. 69.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 5.*)

(No. 103.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 26, 1879.*

ON the 17th instant two railway cars containing 400 cases of rifle cartridges (318,000) arrived at Philippopolis from Yamboli. This ammunition was delivered to a bookseller named Manelioff, who acts as Secretary to the so-called "National Committee," and was stored, immediately after its arrival, on the premises occupied by the National Committee in the Marash quarter of this town.

I have the honour to inclose the original Way Bill, by which the ammunition in question was accompanied. The form is that on which the Russian authorities have hitherto requisitioned railway cars, the words on the edge of the counterfoil being "Bulletin de Requisition." The Russian stamp at the top signifies that the Way Bill belongs to the "third series," while at the bottom your Lordship will find the words "de l'armée Impériale Russe."

If still more proof were wanted of the Russian official character of this transaction, it can be found by a reference to the books of the Railway Company, in which the Russian Government have been debited with the carriage from Yamboli to Philippopolis.

On the same day two other cars, with a similar quantity of cartridges, passed through Philippopolis to Tatar-Bazardjik under circumstances exactly similar; and I have reason to believe that further supplies of ammunition for the use of the East Roumelian subjects of the Sultan will shortly be forwarded by rail from Yamboli, the nearest station from Sliyno, where, as already reported, the ammunition imported by the Russian authorities by way of Bourgas has been stored, long after the date fixed for the commencement of the evacuation of this province by the Russian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 70.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 5.*)

(No. 104.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 26, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract from a letter which I have received from M. Tonjoroff, a Bulgarian Protestant missionary, married to an Englishwoman, and who is now at Bansko, in Macedonia.

He states that there is much distress and sickness among the Bulgarian refugees in Macedonia, and that his wife has applied to the Governor-General of Salonica for assistance.

I have replied that I have unfortunately no funds out of which I can afford relief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 70.

The Rev. J. Tonjoroff to Consul-General Michell.

(Extract.) *Bansko, July 18, 1879.*

THERE is very great distress here among the Bulgarians returning from different parts, and also among the Turkish refugees here from Bulgaria. The Bulgarians that have returned, about 150 families, live together in a few half-burnt and destroyed houses. When I visited them last week I found that typhus fever was raging among them. They are perfectly destitute, lying on bundles of hay. We have done all we could for them. But it is nothing compared with what is needed. Hundreds have died, and more are dying daily. Will you please send us some help for these poor people. You can send it by the bearer.

I am sorry to say that the political affairs here are as dark as ever; but I cannot write to you about that just now. My wife has given a petition to the Vali of Salonica for the people here, but has received no answer yet.

The roads are very dangerous for travelling. The mountains are full of Bulgarian and Turkish robbers.

We hear that the Commission has begun to prepare the new laws for Macedonia, of which there is great need here. May the Lord help you.

The above-mentioned petition was sent by telegram on behalf of five suffering villages.

No. 71.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 5.*)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 26, 1879.*

I BEG to inclose an extract from the last number of the "Philippopolis," consisting of a leading article and a series of paragraphs on the subject of the excesses which have lately been committed by militiamen in this town.

The object of the leading article is to show that the indiscipline thus exhibited by the local militia is due to intrigues of the Pan-Bulgarian agitators, whose object is to prove the incompetency of General Vitalis and his foreign staff, and to bring about their removal from the command of the militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 72.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 107.)
Philippopolis, July 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the Resolutions moved this day by the French Commissioner at a meeting of the Commission, at which the competency of the latter to discuss questions relating to the application of the Organic Statute was fully established.

The first Resolution was unanimously adopted, and on the second Resolution the Russian and Italian Delegates were left in a minority. A discussion having arisen on an amendment proposed by M. Veravni in respect to the third Resolution, it was decided to adjourn the further consideration of the matter until Monday next. The amendment consisted in proposing that Resolution 3 should be adopted in lieu of Resolution 2.

The Italian Commissioner appealed several times to his colleagues to support him in the statement that, although not included in the Protocols of the Commission, his views had frequently been expressed during the preparation of the clauses relating to the posts and telegraphs in a direction from which the above Resolutions constituted an entire departure; but none of the Commissioners, with the exception of Prince Tzeretelew, were able to corroborate that statement.

As I had not had the advantage of assisting in the preparation of the Statute, I assumed the character of a listener to the arguments on both sides. When, however, the first two Resolutions were put by the Chairman, I gave my vote in favour of them, in full confidence that, although the opinion expressed in Resolution No. 2 is not quite in accordance with that of Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, as communicated in your Lordship's despatch No. 14, Her Majesty's Government will approve of my having joined the Austrian, German, French, and Turkish Commissioners, in giving such an interpretation to the Statute as, while being in the opinion of a majority of my colleagues strictly in conformity with their original intentions, will serve to secure effectually to the Porte the rights which have been reserved to it in respect to posts and telegraphs under the Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Resolutions moved by the French Commissioner at the Meeting of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, held 26th July, 1879, under the Presidency of the German Commissioner.

LES lois, règlements, Traités, et Conventions en vigueur dans l'Empire concernant les postes et les télégraphes sont applicables dans la province.

2. Sa Majesté le Sultan nomme dans la province les employés des postes et des télégraphes qu'il nomme également dans les autres provinces de l'Empire.

3. Les nominations qui appartiennent à l'Administration Centrale des Postes et Télégraphes sont faites en ce qui concerne la province d'accord avec le Gouverneur-Général.

4. Le Gouvernement est lui-même de plein droit le Directeur-Général des services postales et télégraphiques en Roumélie Orientale; il préside à leur organisation, surveille et dirige leur fonctionnement, exerce le pouvoir disciplinaire sur les employés.

No. 73.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 64.)
Constantinople, July 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 44 of the 26th June, authorizing me to accept the indications of the map left with

your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff in May 1878 as my guide in the delimitation of the new Turco-Russian frontier in Asia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 74.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 40.)
Constantinople, July 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, so far as the labours in the field are concerned, the Commission, of which I am a member, has completed the work of delimitation of the southern and south-western frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

A large staff of Russian topographers are at present employed in making a survey of the frontier as laid down by the Commission; the principles defined by the Treaty of Berlin have been adhered to.

I fear it will be from a month to six weeks before the plans of the frontier-line from Adaculi to Mount Cadir-Tepe can be completed. Between these two points the Commission had only the Austrian Staff Map to go by, and which in many parts ceased to be a guide.

I propose sending home by the first opportunity the three Sappers who accompanied me this year and last, as their services will no longer be required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major,*
93rd Highlanders.

No. 75.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 17. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, July 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Husni Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner charged to make arrangements with the Austrian military authorities in Bosnia regarding the occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, arrived here on the 26th instant, accompanied by three other Turkish officers, and was received with every honour and attention by the Austrian authorities.

I hear that the Austro-Turkish Commission will proceed to the River Lim, to visit the spots to be garrisoned, in three or four days, and it is anticipated that the advance of the Austrian troops will take place about the first week in September.

Raids appear to be frequently made into Bosnia, and the Austrian advanced posts in the neighbourhood of Foca and Cainica to be continually harassed by armed bands from the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar; but I am unable to obtain any precise information on the subject. The wildest rumours are constantly circulated in this town—rumours to which it is impossible to give credence,—while, on the other hand, the Austrian authorities are so exceedingly reticent and ever anxious to make light of any disturbances either on the frontier or in the interior of the country, that it is very difficult to ascertain the real facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 76.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 45.)
Buyukdéré, July 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that as the Russian Commissioner had announced that the necessary maps would not be ready for two months, and as he was unable to give any assurance that the work would be hastened, or even that the time named would be observed, I considered how to collect a party of officers to sketch that

part of the frontier. Captain Everett, then on his way to Asia Minor, called on me the same day, and I ventured to request Sir Henry Layard to detain him till your Lordship's wishes should be ascertained. The same day I learned from Major Gordon that Lieutenant de Wolski was then in Pera, and available for this new work.

At the meeting of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission on the 26th instant, after observing how unsatisfactory was the position in which we were placed, and that it was not fitting that a European Commission should be obliged indefinitely to await the proceedings of topographers employed for other ends, and over which it had no control, I proposed to place the following officers at the service of the Commission, namely, Major Ardagh in charge, Captain Jones, Captain Everett, and Lieutenant de Wolski, and to dispatch them to the frontier with the least possible delay.

This proposition was at first opposed with a great deal of heat by the Russian Commissioner, who declared that it cast doubt upon his word, and that, if it were accepted, he should desire the Russian topographers to consider themselves free to pursue their work in a manner irrespective of the purposes of the Commission.

The French and Italian Commissioners strongly supported my proposition, which was unanimously accepted by vote. Tahir Pasha then expressed his readiness to associate Turkish officers with ours, and I requested him to send with them Captain Scherefatin, an officer attached to the Commission, who speaks French, and whose presence will greatly facilitate the work of the party, by procuring escort and transport and communicating between them and the inhabitants.

The Russians have left two gaps in their map. The locality of one is a mountain along which the frontier will follow the watershed: which has no territorial or military importance, and where the line can always be easily identified. The Commission may, therefore, in case of need, dispense with that part of the map altogether, and I have sent the party to fill the other gap.

It may, perhaps, be hoped, notwithstanding the resentment of the Russian Commissioner, that the work of the Russian topographers may be hastened by this step, and that, when it is seen that the Commission is not dependent on them, they will endeavour to finish before ours. At the close of the séance, I requested Colonel Bogolubow to have them employed in making good the other gap; he replied that he would note the wish, but not that he would comply with it.

I felt some anxiety about the transit of the party through Bulgarian territory. I therefore suggested to Sir Henry Layard that perhaps one of the men-of-war in the Bosphorus might take them to Salonica. Captain Pusey, of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern," undertook the task most promptly and zealously, and they started yesterday afternoon. The Turkish captain and an interpreter accompanied them. I have requested the Turkish captain to inform me by telegram, through Tahir Pasha, of any gatherings of Bulgarian militia, or gymnasts, near the frontier, for your Lordship's information.

I hope they will reach the frontier next Saturday, 2nd August, and that they will finish the survey in from ten to fourteen days. Thus the delay of at least a month will be saved to the Commission, who cannot fail to contrast the manner in which the English Government endeavours to facilitate their work with the attitude taken towards them by the Russian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 77.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 470.)
My Lord,
Vienna, July 29, 1879.

IN speaking to Baron Calice on the subject of the establishment of religious equality in Roumania, I have observed that there was a consideration to which sufficient prominence appeared scarcely to have been given, though it very clearly showed the immediate necessity for it.

The Dobrudscha, upon its annexation to Roumania, contained many non-Christians, chiefly Mussulman, possessed of property which they could not legally continue to hold unless the disabilities were removed before the province is regularly incorporated in the Principality by being brought within the operation of its Constitution.

It is not to be supposed that the Powers would consent to these people being dispossessed of their holdings, and, unless it is intended that the Dobrudscha shall not be fully incorporated with the rest of the Principality, but shall continue to be administered under an exceptional legislation, the general abrogation of the disabilities becomes a matter of necessity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 78.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 471. Confidential.)
My Lord,
Vienna, July 29, 1879.

I UNDERSTAND that the Messrs. Rothschild have requested the support of the Austrian Government for the Decree proposed by them to the Khedive.

They were informed in reply that the Imperial Government must remain entirely passive in the matter, for no communication had been made to them on the subject by any other Government, and they could not be parties to a proposal for putting more money at the disposal of the Khedive over the expenditure of which no control had been established.

Upon learning this answer I repeated to Baron Calice that although I had no information respecting the views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the control he thought so necessary, he might, I believed, safely assume that one would be established before the remainder of the loan was paid.

His Excellency answered, rather drily, that I might be right in this supposition, but no intimation to that effect had been made to the Imperial Government, which was bound, therefore, to act with reserve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 475.)
My Lord,
Vienna, July 30, 1879.

IT has been suggested by the Montenegrin Government, or on their behalf, that the frontier between Gorica Topal and the sea should be drawn to the east of the line indicated by the Treaty, to prevent the division of the tribe to which Megured belongs, but the Austrian Government do not consider the argument to afford a valid reason for departing from the original arrangement.

The Austrian Commissioner has, therefore, been instructed to adhere to the terms of the Treaty, and to advocate a line passing between Megured and Kalimed.

It is not considered advisable to bring the frontier nearer to Scutari than had been proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 80.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 476.)
My Lord,
Vienna, July 31, 1879.

TWO days ago the Porte informed the Turkish Ambassador that Austrian troops had advanced some miles into the Novi-Bazar district, directing him to insist upon their being recalled until the arrangements now being negotiated according to the Convention are concluded.

The Austrian Government have received no information tending to confirm this intelligence, which they declare to be without foundation, and the Porte would have done better to ascertain its correctness before making the complaint.

The Duke of Wurtemberg speaks in the most favourable terms of the Turkish Commissioner, Husni Pasha, with whom he has to concert the measures respecting the occupation of the three places mentioned in the Convention, to which two officers of their respective Staffs will proceed as soon as a proper Turkish escort has been provided.

As the newspapers frequently refer to the early occupation of Novi-Bazar, it is, perhaps, not superfluous to state that there is not the slightest intention of advancing troops to that town, or of doing more than send garrisons to the places agreed upon, which, as your Lordship is aware, are none of them situated very far within the sandjak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 81.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 477. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 1, 1879.

COUNT KHEVENHULLER, the Austrian Agent in Bulgaria, reports that there are already various small causes of disagreement between Prince Alexander and the Russians, with whom His Highness does not appear to be over well satisfied.

It appears that Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff professed to have 12,000,000 francs in the chest, but upon investigation it turned out that there was not more than 3,000,000 francs, in addition to a certain amount that had been brought from East Roumelia, and which will have to be returned.

Prince Alexander has given the Russian officers who remain in the Bulgarian militia an advance of one grade upon the rank they held in the Russian army, which Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff resents as a breach of an engagement by which he says those officers were to get two steps, and he considers it a further grievance that in their pay the rouble is calculated at a lower rate of exchange than it bears in Russia.

Prince Alexander is also irritated as well as inconvenienced at finding that in the residence prepared for him at Sofia much of the furniture supposed to have been supplied, though figuring in the inventory and charged against him, had no real existence, so that he has had to send agents to Vienna to get it.

Judging from this report the Prince's first impressions appear far from cheerful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 82.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 822.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 4, 1879.

AT the request of M. Callimaki-Catargi, the Roumanian Agent here, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed copy of a despatch on the question of the Jews which has been addressed to him by his Government for communication to the Governments of England and France.

M. Callimaki-Catargi tells me that he has already communicated the despatch to M. Waddington.

M. Callimaki-Catargi begs me to inform your Lordship that M. Boerescu expects to arrive in Paris from Vienna and Berlin on the 14th, or at latest on the 15th instant; and that after occupying two or possibly three days in conferring with the French Government, he will be very anxious to have the honour of an interview with your Lordship, and very much obliged if you will fix a time and a place for the purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 82.

M. Boerescu to M. Callimaki-Catargi.

M. l'Agent, *Bucarest, le* $\frac{13}{25}$ *Juillet*, 1879.

A LA suite de la démission du Cabinet précédent, Son Altesse Royale a bien voulu confier l'administration du pays à un Ministère de fusion, dont j'ai eu l'honneur de vous faire connaître la nomination par mes dépêches antérieures.

Il est de mon devoir de vous expliquer, en quelques mots, sa politique et le but qu'il propose d'atteindre.

Cette politique de même que ce but se trouvent consignés dans le programme que le nouveau Ministère a lu devant les Chambres le $\frac{14}{26}$ de ce mois, et se résument dans ce passage:—

"Votre Gouvernement croit répondre aux exigences de la diplomatie Européenne de même qu'aux préoccupations légitimes du pays, quand, tout en reconnaissant le principe de légalité religieuse et de la liberté des cultes, il admettra et il soutiendra, en ce qui concerne la révision de l'Article 7, et par rapport à nos intérêts, une solution basée sur le principe de la naturalisation individuelle, qui exclut toute catégorie, ainsi que sur des restrictions spéciales pour acquisition des propriétés rurales."

C'est donc la révision de l'Article 7 conformément à l'Article XLIV du Traité de Berlin, que le Gouvernement actuel se propose de réaliser. C'est là le but principal, et presque exclusif pour le moment, qu'il se propose de poursuivre.

Son programme est précis et sans équivoque. La révision de l'Article 7 touche deux ordres des rapports différents: des rapports d'un ordre international qui résultent du Traité de Berlin, et qui embrassent les principes généraux de la civilisation moderne, et des rapports d'un ordre purement intérieur qui résultent seulement des intérêts nationaux et économiques de la nation Roumaine.

En ce qui concerne les premiers rapports, le Gouvernement n'a fait, par son programme, que répéter l'engagement que la nation a pris, d'une manière expresse et solennelle, de se conformer au Traité de Berlin; en ce qui le concerne il ne peut que s'obliger d'exécuter cette volonté sans détour, avec franchise et loyauté. Aussi nous sommes-nous empressés de déclarer aux Chambres, par notre programme, que le principe contenu dans l'Article XLIV du Traité, nous le ferons entrer dans notre droit public, ce qui veut dire que nous le ferons inscrire dans notre Constitution lors de la révision de l'Article 7, sous cette forme que nous avons même tenu de préciser, "que la différence de religion ne pourra constituer un obstacle pour l'acquisition et la jouissance des droits civils et politiques."

De l'insertion de ce principe, de droit public général, dans notre Constitution, il en résultera (*a*) que tout Roumain, à quelque croyance ou confession religieuse qu'il appartienne, aura les mêmes droits et sera soumis aux mêmes devoirs; il n'y aura donc aucune exclusion, aucune incapacité, prescrite par une loi quelconque, qui serait admise contre un citoyen Roumain, ou un simple sujet Roumain, à cause de sa religion; (*b*) que tous les étrangers, sans distinction de nationalité et sans distinction de religion seront traités en Roumanie sur le pied de la plus parfaite égalité, sauf, bien entendu, les avantages qui seront donnés à certains étrangers par des Traités spéciaux.

Toutes ces conséquences d'un principe inscrit dans la Constitution seront appliquées seulement par des Lois Organiques postérieures, et entraîneront la modification indispensable des Lois Organiques existantes qui contiendraient quelques dispositions contraires à ce principe.

Quant à la liberté et à la pratique extérieure de tous les cultes, sans distinction, elle existe déjà inscrite dans notre Constitution (Article 6); aucune loi existante ne contient une disposition qui lui soit contraire.

Voyez, M. l'Agent, que par sa déclaration catégorique devant les Chambres, le Gouvernement croit avoir fait cesser à l'extérieur tout doute à cet égard. Du reste, personne en Roumanie ne conteste l'introduction dans notre droit public du principe mentionné.

Il me reste à vous parler des rapports d'un ordre purement intérieur qui touchent nos intérêts nationaux et économiques.

Nous avons dit dans notre programme que nous entendons sous ce rapport exécuter la révision de l'Article 7, en nous basant sur le principe de la naturalisation individuelle, qui exclut toute catégorie, et sur des restrictions spéciales concernant l'acquisition des propriétés rurales.

Pourrait-il y avoir quelque chose d'anormal ou de contraire au principe de droit public international, prescrit par l'Article XLIV du Traité, dans cette solution, dans cette modalité de réviser l'Article 7? Absolument rien.

La naturalisation est une disposition de droit privé intérieur, qui ne regarde que l'avenir; elle s'applique à tous les étrangers, à tous ceux qui ne sont pas citoyens Roumains, sans distinction de croyances religieuses. Par conséquent, les étrangers, Chrétiens, Juifs, ou Musulmans, peuvent dorénavant, et contrairement à ce que disait déjà l'Article 7 et nos lois antérieures, obtenir la naturalisation.

Ce principe nouveau sera inscrit dans notre Constitution, et par conséquent, il sera en parfait accord avec l'autre principe adopté, que la différence de religion ne pourra plus créer aucune incapacité pour l'acquisition ou la jouissance des droits.

Il resterait seulement que ce principe inscrit dans notre pacte fondamental comme une énonciation, soit ensuite appliqué et réglementé par une loi spéciale sur la naturalisation.

Mais, dirait-on, pourquoi ajouter le mot "individuelle" après le mot naturalisation? La réponse en est bien simple; parce que la naturalisation n'est jamais collective à moins qu'il ne s'agisse d'annexion, et encore dans ce cas, c'est en vertu d'un autre principe que les sujets annexés s'assimilent aux citoyens de l'Etat conquérant.

Pourquoi, pourrait-on encore objecter, a-t-on ajouté la phrase "sans catégories aucunes?" Parceque, pourrions-nous répondre, ces catégories seraient absolument inutiles dans ce cas. Une fois que la loi ne commande que pour l'avenir, une fois que toute naturalisation ne peut être qu'individuelle et nullement collective, pourquoi admettre qu'une naturalisation pourrait aussi se faire par catégories d'hommes, quand ces catégories ne seraient que des collectivités?

Mais alors, nous répondrait-on, tous les Juifs en Roumanie seraient et resteraient étrangers. Cette objection n'est fondée qu'en partie.

Tous les Juifs ne sont pas étrangers en Roumanie, mais la plupart le sont. Mais aucun Juif, à aucune époque de notre histoire, n'a été citoyen Roumain. La préoccupation actuelle de l'Europe le prouve, la Convention de Paris de 1858, Article XLVI, le prouve, toutes nos lois, nos us et coutumes, tous les faits anciens et nouveaux, le prouvent. Les Juifs qui n'étaient pas sujets étrangers en Roumanie, étaient simplement sujets Roumains, ayant l'exercice des droits civils, avec certaines restrictions, mais n'ayant jamais la jouissance des droits politiques. C'est de cette manière qu'on s'explique le fait que les Juifs, tout en étant sujets aux impôts et au service de l'armée, n'étaient point citoyens Roumains,

C'est là l'état de choses existant chez nous à l'égard des Juifs que les Signataires du Traité du Berlin désireraient voir changer. Nous le désirons aussi franchement et loyalement et toute la nation avec nous. Mais de quelle manière?

C'est la grande question du jour en Roumanie, qui agite les esprits, qui trouble les consciences, et qui s'aggravant tous les jours, nous menace de conséquences fâcheuses, désastreuses peut-être, pour nous comme pour les Juifs. Qu'y a-t-il à faire?

Nous l'avons dit, un état de choses existe, il faut substituer un autre à sa place.

Dans ce nouvel état de choses il faut avoir en vue les effets du principe contenu dans l'Article XLIV du Traité qu'il produira pour l'avenir et ses effets rétroactifs pour le passé.

Le principe en lui-même contenu dans cet Article XLIV est et sera admis par la nation Roumaine, nous le déclarons formellement. Il ne s'agirait donc que de son exécution qui ne saurait se faire, les Grandes Puissances voudront bien le comprendre, que dans la limite du possible.

Pour l'avenir les effets de ce principe admis seront absolus; tout étranger, Juif ou autre, sera admis à la naturalisation, conformément à la loi civile, sans distinction de religion.

Il n'en est pas de même de ses effets rétroactifs pour le passé. Les Juifs aujourd'hui existants en Roumanie, n'ont jamais été, répétons-le, citoyens Roumains. Comment les déclarer tels en un seul jour? Comment admettre que la Valachie, la Moldavie surtout, qui est envahie par plus de 300,000 Juifs, soit tout d'un coup submergée par une population de plus de 150,000 nouveaux citoyens, incultes, fanatiques, ayant une autre langue, une autre religion, d'autres mœurs, d'autres sentiments, et que les indigènes ont toujours considérés comme étrangers, comme se sont du reste considérés ces mêmes Juifs.

Ce serait porter un coup terrible à tous les intérêts économiques du pays. Ce serait aiguillonner son sentiment de conservation, ce serait troubler les consciences et exaspérer les plus timorés; ce serait à coup sûr pousser les habitants au désespoir, à la révolte, à Dieu sait quels autres malheurs!

Le Gouvernement actuel ne pourrait jamais prendre sur lui une pareille responsabilité, et nous pensons qu'aucun autre Gouvernement ne pourrait le faire.

Voilà pourquoi, M. l'Agent, je vous ai dit que l'exécution de l'Article XLIV, en

ce qui concerne nos intérêts intérieurs, ne doit se faire, surtout au point du vue de son effet rétroactif, que dans la limite du possible.

Quel serait ce possible? C'est là une question difficile et compliquée, à laquelle on ne peut pas répondre facilement.

Pendant le délai d'un mois que nous avons pris pour étudier l'état de chose actuel, nous chercherons aussi cette limite du possible. Nous verrons si, tout en maintenant le principe de la solution basé sur la naturalisation individuelle, nous pourrions, en même temps, pour consacrer le principe de l'égalité religieuse, faire voter des listes nominales contenant les noms de ceux d'entre les Juifs, sujets Roumains, qui se seraient assez assimilés avec les nationaux pour les déclarer, immédiatement, et sans stage, citoyens Roumains.

Mais je le répète, nous devons réfléchir encore sur cette question. Tout ce que je puis vous assurer, c'est que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse Royale le Prince est décidé de trouver en même temps un moyen pour donner un effet rétroactif à la loi nouvelle sur l'Article 7 afin de consacrer, par une application immédiate, le principe nouveau qui serait introduit dans l'Article 7.

Quant aux restrictions que nous admettons en ce qui concerne l'acquisition des propriétés rurales, on comprendrait facilement que cette question ne touche à aucune principe d'ordre extérieur. Elle ne provoquerait que des mesures conservatoires en accord avec nos institutions politiques.

A la suite de tout ce qui précède, vous avez pu comprendre, M. l'Agent, la nécessité où le nouveau Gouvernement se trouvait de proroger, pour une courte durée, la Session des Chambres. Nous ne pourrions pas risquer une discussion si importante, la solution d'une question si grave à l'extérieur et si dangereuse à l'intérieur, sans bien connaître notre terrain, sans bien nous préparer.

Veuillez donner des explications dans ce sens sur notre politique, et sur notre but, au Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, et vous pouvez laisser copie de cette dépêche si on vous en fait la demande.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) B. BOERESCO.

No. 83.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 5, 1879, 6·5 P.M.*

PLEASE inform me by telegraph for which of the Vice-Consuls under Wilson and Trotter Berats have been issued by the Porte.

No. 84.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 397.) *Foreign Office, August 5, 1879.*

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, the translation of a Memorandum relating to religious liberty in Roumania, which was communicated to me on the 1st instant by the German Chargé d'Affaires at this Court.*

In the conversation which ensued upon the subject, he inquired whether I concurred in the view of the German Government, that any further expression of opinion on the part of the Powers should be deferred until a further proposal should have been received from the Roumanian Government.

I expressed my concurrence in this view of the case, and observed that the inclosed conditions were too vague to justify the expression of any opinion on them; adding that matters having gone so far the Governments could not now give way without full satisfaction being given to their views.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 1.

No. 85.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, August* 5, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the telegram addressed to your Excellency by the Sublime Porte on the 24th instant, and which you have been good enough to communicate to me, informing me that it is the intention of the Ottoman Government to renew at Constantinople, with an Envoy from the Prince of Montenegro, the negotiations which had been interrupted by the Turkish Commissioner, with regard to a proposed modification of the frontier in the neighbourhood of Goussinie and Plava, as laid down in the Treaty of Berlin.

In reply, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that this is a matter upon which Her Majesty's Government would see no reason to offer opposition to any decision at which the two parties chiefly interested may arrive.

As, however, it is apparently intended to modify the Treaty of Berlin, your Excellency will understand that it will be necessary to obtain the assent of all the Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 86.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July* 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith inclosed copy of a Report, with copies of its five inclosures, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople upon the population, the disposition of landed property, and the resources and general condition of the four frontier districts, viz., Armyro, Chataldja and Domoco, Carditza, and Tricalla.

The information I have furnished in this Report was derived from inquiries and observations which I made on the spot during my late mission in Thessaly; and I venture to express the hope that it will prove useful to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, July* 25, 1879.

THE inclosed Returns, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, showing the population and the disposition of landed property in the four frontier districts of Thessaly, viz., Armyro, Chatalda and Domoco, Carditza, and Tricalla, have been compiled by me from information which I have gathered in my several visits to those districts during my late mission in Thessaly.

They may prove interesting, and perhaps, useful to Her Majesty's Government in connection with the rectification of the Greek frontier in the direction of Thessaly; and in submitting them to your Excellency, I beg leave to add the following brief description of some of the towns and villages they refer to, with a few notes upon their population, social condition, resources, taxes, &c. But before I proceed to do so, I should point out that the Return No. 1, of the population of district of Armyro, differs, in some particulars, from the one I forwarded to your Excellency in my despatch from Larissa, dated 12th August, 1878, it having been corrected by me in a subsequent visit I paid to that district.

I may also add that the numbers given in the Returns have been derived from native sources, as well as from the local Turkish records, and, although they cannot be regarded as altogether correct, I am enabled, from the careful inquiries which I have made in each district, to recommend them as fairly true generally.

Town and district of Armyro.—The town of Armyro is situate about an hour from the sea-coast, two from the Hellenic border, five from the port of Volo, and twelve from Larissa (called in Turkish "Yeni-Shehir," the new city), the capital of Thessaly.

It lies in a hollow of a fertile plain, and is scarcely visible before approaching its vicinity.

It looks smitten with decay; its houses, mostly detached and small, although built of stone, of which quarries exist in the locality, are in a dilapidated condition, and its streets are uneven and dirty. The only conspicuous object is a stone barrack built on a little hillock just outside the town facing the south.

Here, as indeed in all the districts of Thessaly, Greek is also generally spoken by the Turkish inhabitants, and appears to be the common language between Turks and Christians. The inhabitants of the town and district are chiefly engaged in agricultural and pastoral business. The district is very fertile, grows good grass, and affords rich winter pasturage, which is largely availed of by Albanian and Vlach sheep farmers.

Wheat is the main grain crop, but barley, Indian corn, and tobacco are also regularly grown, and some silk, cotton, wine, and oil are produced and exported to Volo.

Mr. Cassavetti, of London, has recently bought a large estate in this district, called Aidin, which he has placed under the superintendence of a Scotch steward, who has already introduced some improvements in the native system of cultivation.

Another English gentleman is making inquiries in that direction with a view to acquire an estate for the purpose of sheep farming.

The adult male population of Armyro, including that of the district (*vide* Return No. 1), is 3,357, or 969 Mahommedans and 2,388 Christians. These figures represent a total population of about 11,265 Mahommedans and Christians, including women and children of both sexes (2,907 Mahommedans and 8,358 Christians).

The Government taxes average about 11,000*l.* per annum, and are chiefly derived from the following sources: 1,000*l.* from "Virghu," tax on property; 600*l.* "Bedelatti-Askeriyeh," military commutation; 2,000*l.* "Agnam," sheep tax; 3,500*l.* "Ashar," tithes.

Chataldja and Domoco.—The town of Chataldja (the ancient "Pharsalus") is about seven hours distant from Larissa and twelve from Volo, the seaport of Thessaly.

It is situated at the southern extremity of an extensive wide and flat plain (the theatre of the memorable and decisive battle between Cæsar and Pompey, B.C. 42), and is divided into the Greek and Turkish quarters, the former rising above the latter, on the slopes of a rocky crag which overlooks the town, and on the summit of which some extensive ruins of an ancient Greek castle are still visible.

This town, too, has a poverty-stricken and dilapidated appearance, and offers nothing worthy of notice. The houses are built of stone, generally one story high, and the streets are narrow, badly paved, and dirty. It is the See of a Greek Archbishop, and has a telegraph station, public baths, and a small bazaar.

Domoco.—Domoco, the ancient "Thaumaci," is included in the district of Chataldja. It is built on the sides of two high hills, separated from each other by a deep ravine. On the summit of one of the hills is a small castle, apparently of the Byzantine epoch, mounted with a few honeycombed guns; on the other hill, that to the north-west, the Turks have recently raised some strong batteries built of stone and faced with earth, which command the main roads leading to the town of Lamia ("Zeitoun" in Turkish) in Greece, and Larissa, Chataldja, and Carditza in Thessaly. Domoco is about three hours from the Greek border, seven from Chataldja, and twelve from Larissa; it is prettily situated, and with its scattered houses built of stone looks larger and more prosperous than it really is. It suffers from scarcity of water, there being only two fountains in the place. A Greek Bishop and a Hellenic Consular Agent reside here; and the inhabitants are mostly cultivators, herdsmen, and conductors of caravans. The latter derive considerable profit from the carrying traffic which passes through their town between Greece and Thessaly.

Chataldja, with its sub-district of Domoco, is essentially an agricultural and pastoral country. It contains 32 villages (25 Turkish, 5 Christian, and 2 mixed Turkish and Christian). Also 61 chifliks, or estates, tenanted by Greek peasant farmers; 45 of these estates are owned by Turks, 14 by Christians, and 5 by Turks and Christians jointly. Many of the villages and estates are situate in the plain of

Chataldja, which is well watered by small streams, and is partly used for tillage and partly for grazing.

It produces excellent tobacco, as well as cereals, wool, silk, cotton, and most of which are exported through the Port of Volo.

The town of Chataldja has about 2,737 inhabitants (1,299 Mahommedans, and 1,438 Christians); that of Domoco, 2,347 (471 Mahommedans, and 1,876 Christians).

The population of the district, with that of Domoco, and including the inhabitants of both towns, is about 30,941 (7,953 Mahommedans, and 22,988 Christians, including women and children).

The proceeds of the local taxes average about 33,000*l.* per annum, to which 2,500*l.* are contributed by the "Virghu," tax on property; 1,500*l.* by the "Bedellati Askeriyeh," military commutation tax; 6,000*l.* by the "Agnam," sheep tax; and 17,000*l.* by the "Ashar," tithes of agriculture produce.

Cardiitza and Fener.—The town of Cardiitza is of recent growth, as it was only shortly after the Crimean War that Christians were allowed to purchase and hold real property in the place. It is about twelve hours distant from Larissa with which and the other towns in Thessaly it is connected by the telegraph wire. The town wears a miserable appearance, and its inhabitants, although industrious, are smitten with fever contracted from the swamps in its vicinity. Just outside the place there are considerable barracks for infantry and cavalry.

Fener.—Fener, "Phanari" in Greek, is a small town in the district of Cardiitza, and is constructed on one of the peaks of the Agrapha Mountains, four hours to the north-west of Cardiitza, from the summit of which an extensive view is had of the surrounding hills and plains.

There is a small castle here which is garrisoned by one battalion of infantry; and the most prominent objects of the place are two stone barracks, and a military hospital in the form of a cross.

The inhabitants, Greeks and Turks, are exclusively engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The district of Cardiitza expands into a broad and fertile plain bounded on the south-west by the Agrapha Mountains which are well wooded and studded with villages and hamlets.

It produces wheat, Indian corn, barley, tobacco, wool, silk, wax, and cotton, which are extensively exported to Volo. The Greek tenant farmers here, especially those in the estates of Sophades; Mavromati; Mataranga, &c., appear to be reasonably well off; most of them keep a certain quantity of live stock, principally sheep and cattle, have better dwellings, and maintain schools for their children, and spends besides a great deal of money on their churches. It is a fact worthy of notice that every village and estate in this and in the other districts of Thessaly has a church; some have two and even three churches. And I have remarked that these establishments are more numerous and better built in the estates owned by Turkish landlords who give every facility and assistance to their tenants in that direction. These churches in fact serve as decoys to attract and secure the permanency of the tenants on the estates.

Of the 71 villages in the district of Cardiitza, 8 are inhabited by Turks; 61 by Christians (Greeks), and 2 by Turks and Christians.

Of the 69 estates in the same district; 48 are owned by Turks; 14 by Christians, and 7 by Turks and Christians jointly. (Vide summary of Return No. 3).

The town of Cardiitza has about 5,816 inhabitants (2,589 Mahommedans, and 3,227 Christians).

That of Fenner, 3,068 inhabitants (720 Mahommedans, and 2,348 Christians).

The population of the whole district, including that of its two towns, is about 79,296 (5,922 Mahommedans, and 73,374 Christians).

The average amount of taxes annually contributed by this district is about 37,000*l.*; chiefly derived from the following sources:—property tax 5,500*l.*; military commutation tax 5,000*l.*; sheep tax 7,000*l.*; and tithes 14,000*l.*

Tricalla.—Tricalla, the ancient "Trikka," is the oldest and second town in Thessaly. An old fortress, still in fair preservation, stands on an eminence above the town and commands a full view of the surrounding country, rich in beautiful mountain scenery.

A Greek Bishop and a Hellenic Consular Agent reside here, and both the Greek and Turkish Communities appear well to do, and somewhat more civilized than those of the other towns. I observed much social intercourse between the two peoples and evidences of a friendly feeling towards each other. All the local Turkish Notables speak Greek, many of them read and write it. Both communities also pay greater attention to their schools than is the case in the other towns.

The town is in telegraphic communication with Larissa, from which it is about 12 hours distant; and it has bazaars fairly stocked with British and other foreign goods.

There are several native Greek and Vlach merchants in the place, who have direct commercial relations with Italy, France, Austria, and the Levant, with which they carry on an active business partly through Arta in Epirus, but mostly through the port of Volo. They export wool, silk pods, cotton, tobacco, skins, and furs, and import British, French and German goods. A considerable quantity of cheese made in the Vlach villages is also sent from here to Italy and the Levant; and the mountain villages supply most of the province with timber for building purposes, which they make up into rafts and float on the river Peneus to Larissa and other localities.

The district of Tricalla presents some striking and suggestive features, which require a few words of notice.

It is intersected by a succession of fertile valleys formed by branches of the Agrapha Mountains, which almost surround it, and from which flow numerous streams on their way to the Salymbria (Peneus), the largest river in Thessaly. Its decent villages, its fine pasture and arable lands, and the number of its flocks and herds, give to the inhabitants an aspect of well-being and progress which are not seen in the other districts of Thessaly. Its rural population is composed exclusively of Greek and Vlach Christians. The former generally occupy the villages and estates in the plain, while the latter are found in more compact village communities in the Agrapha Mountains.

Of the 65 villages in this district, 41 are inhabited by 13,601 Greeks, and 24 by 19,757 Vlachs, including women and children.

Of its 130 estates, 64 are owned by Turks, 55 by Christians, and 11 by Turks and Christians jointly.

Thus, there are no Turkish villages in this district, and a very considerable portion of its lands is in possession of the Christians. Some of the estates, such as Zarko,* Neohori, Djigotti-Kebir, Ghirdjan, Calivia-Kebir, &c., are very large, and, on the whole, are cultivated with some care, but a large proportion of them are small, and with their mud huts present a slovenly appearance. The villages on the slopes and in the glens of the Agrapha, especially those occupied by the Vlach community, are very prettily situated.

Their houses are more substantially built, generally of stone, and covered with slate roofs, and their inhabitants are decidedly more dense, healthy, and prosperous.

All the estates in this district are farmed on the "metayer" or partnership system, which is the rule in the rest of the province.

The proprietor of the estate furnishes the land, house, and seed to the tenant-farmer, and the latter is obliged to find the labour, oxen, and instruments. No written contract is entered between them, and while the landlord has the right to discharge the tenant at his pleasure, the tenant is equally free to depart when he chooses. But evictions are very rare in Thessaly, and the landlords are forced by the scarcity of labour to make every possible concession, in order not to lose their tenants. According to the Metayar system, the produce of the farm is divided into two equal parts between the landlord and tenant, after first deducting the seed furnished by the landlord and the tithe due to the Government. In some estates where the seed is furnished by the tenant, the latter takes two-thirds and the landlord one-third of the produce, after making the usual deductions.

Colonel Synge has furnished me with the inclosed notes on the Metayer system and on the general condition of the Greek peasant farmers in Thessaly.

The town of Tricalla has 10,789 inhabitants (2,817 Mahommedans, 7,274 Christians, and 598 Jews).

The total population of the town and district is about 76,953 (2,817 Mahommedans, 53,781 Greeks, 19,757 Vlachs, and 598 Jews).

I should add that the normal population of the town is very considerably increased in winter by large numbers of Vlachs who come down from the mountains with their families and sheep in quest of pasture.

The average amount of taxes annually paid to the Government by this district is estimated at 47,000*l.*, chiefly made up of the following items:—

	£
Property Tax	5,000
Military Commutation Tax	5,000
Tithes	16,000
Sheep Tax	11,000

* The cultivation of opium has been recently introduced at Zarko with remarkable success.—J. E. B.

In reviewing the Returns I have inclosed it will be seen that in the four districts of Armyro, Chataldja and Domoco, Carditza and Tricalla there are no less than 273 estates, viz., 10 in Armyro, 64 in Chataldja and Domoco, 69 in Carditza, and 130 in Tricalla; 160 of these estates are owned by Turks, 86 by Christians, and 27 by Turks and Christians jointly. And it is a significant fact that the estates owned by Christians were purchased by their present proprietors at different periods after the Crimean War!

The aggregate number of tenants on the 273 estates is 88,575, including women and children (all Greeks); and that of the inhabitants of the 185 villages included in the four districts, 81,754, viz., 51,851 Greeks, 19,757 Vlachs, and 10,146 Turks.

They are distributed as follows:—50,327 Greeks, in 14 villages; 19,757 Vlachs, in 24 villages; 9,525 Turks, in 42 villages; and 2,146 Turks and Christians (621 Turks and 1,525 Christians) in 5 mixed villages.

Should the proposed rectification of the Greek frontier be traced in a way to include the four districts I have described, the Greek State will acquire a large and very fertile extent of country, occupied by a population almost entirely Christian, for of its 198,455* inhabitants only, 19,599 are Mahommedans, and 598 Jews, the remainder, 178,258, are Greeks and Vlachs (158,501 Greeks and 19,757 Vlachs).

The average amount of taxes annually levied by the Ottoman Government from the four districts is estimated at 128,000*l*. I believe it is more, but I have not had the means to procure reliable data on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

RETURN of the Population of the Town, Villages, and Estates in the District of Armyro in Thessaly.

Name.	Number of Houses: Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Male Population: Turks.	Christians.	Total.	Remarks.
Armyro	310	170	480	519	407	926	About six hours from Volo and two from Hellenic border.

Turkish Villages.

No.	Names.	Turkish Houses.	Male Inhabitants.	Remarks.
1	Baklalou	13	39	10 of the houses and mosque burnt by insurgents.
2	Yaghdjillu	6	12	4 of the houses burnt by insurgents.
3	Gulemenlu	8	17	7 of the houses and mosque burnt by insurgents.
4	Kiuléler	15	39	10 " " "
5	Turkemeshlu	23	49	10 " " "
6	Bashalid	9	24	6 " " "
7	Ghedik	29	82	15 " " "
8	Dogoutcha	45	119	20 " " "
9	Karadanalou ..	22	45	10 " " "
	Total	170	426	

* As women and children of both sexes are excluded from the Census in Turkey, I have included them in my estimates by tripling the adult male population, both Mahommedan and non-Mahommedan, as given in my Returns, with this difference, that I have added 50 per cent. more to the non-Mahommedans to make up for the larger proportion of their children.—J. E. B.

Turko-Greek Villages.

Name.	Houses: Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Male Population: Turks.	Christians (Greeks).	Total.	Remarks.
Corfoli	20	38	58	24	130	154	Close to Hellenic border. One mosque and several Turkish houses destroyed by insurgents.

Christian Villages (Greek).

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Inhabitants (Greek).	Remarks.
1	Dermona	24	60	Situated near the Hellenic border.
2	Berinia	83	199	Situated near the Hellenic border, and 4 hours from Armyro.
3	Cocotoss	74	216	1 hour from border and 4 from Armyro.
4	Coufoss	52	154	2 " " 3½ "
5	Ghoura	80	185	2 " " 6 "
6	Platanos	261	622	1½ hour from border and 1½ from Armyro. More than two-thirds of its houses burnt by Turkish irregulars, and 2 of its churches completely and 2 partially burnt.
7	Calivia	49	115	10 minutes from border, and about 1½ hour from Armyro; 10 of 11 of its stone houses burnt by Hellenic military deserters, who joined insurgents.
	Total	626	1,551	

Turkish Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Tenants (Greeks).	Remarks.
1	Kara-kash	6	17	Names of proprietors— Heirs of late Field-Marshal Mehemed Ali Pasha.
2	Hairdarlu ..	..	..	Ahmed Shukri Effendi, Arif Boy. Both estates being in vicinity of Armyro their tenants dwell in that town.
3	Yenikiei (in Greek, Neokori)	..	..	
	Total	6	17	

Christian Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Tenants (Greeks).	Remarks.
1	Kara-mandu ..	17	37	Names of proprietors— Dimitri Yalla, Greek subject.
2	Aidin	25	51	Mr. Cassavetti, of London, British subject.
3	Killuria	10	18	Greek Monastery of Xinia.
	Total	52	106	

Turkish and Christian Joint Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Tenants (Greeks).	Remarks.
1	Ak-katchelon ..	36	81	Names of proprietors—
2	Kassimlu	..	..	Arif Bey, Turk, and M. Anghelaki, Greek.
3	Tchengel	7	16	Ditto, ditto. Tenants dwell in Armyro.
4	Karadja-daglu ..	8	20	Heirs of Mehmed Effendi, Turks, and M. Cartoli.
				Ditto, ditto.
	Total	51	117	

Summary.

Towns, Villages, and Estates in District of Armyro, in Thessaly.	Number of Houses.			Male Population.		
	Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christians (Greek).	Total.
1 town	310	170	480	519	467	986
17 villages—						
9 Turkish villages	170	..	170	426	..	426
1 Turko-Greek village	20	38	58	24	130	154
7 Greek villages (Christian) ..	..	626	626	..	1,551	1,551
10 estates—						
3 Turkish estates (Greek tenants) ..	.	6	6	..	17	17
3 Greek estates (Greek tenants) ..	..	55	55	..	106	106
4 Turkish and Greek joint estates (Greek tenants)	..	51	51	..	117	117
Total	500	946	1,446	969	2,388	3,357

Inclosure 3 in No. 86.

RETURN of the Population of the Towns, Villages, and Estates in District of Chataldja (Pharsalus), and Sub-District of Domoco in Thessaly.

Towns.

No.	Names.	Number of Houses.			Male Population.			Remarks.
		Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christians (Greek).	Total.	
1	Chataldja	231	177	408	463	441	854	The ancient "Pharsalus" is about seven hours distant from Larissa. The ancient "Thaumaci" twelve hours from Larissa and three from Hellenic border.
2	Domoco	79	140	219	157	533	690	
	Total	310	317	627	590	944	1,534	

Turkish Villages.

No.	Names of Villages.	Number of Houses.	Turkish Male Population.	Remarks.
1	Idriss ("Drisko" in Greek)	48	141	2 hours distant from Chataldja.
2	Beiraklu	40	105	1 " " "
3	Devlet-han	17	46	3 " " "
4	Ghedik	11	30	2½ hours distant from Chataldja; 1 house burnt by insurgents.
5	Chatma	32	103	3 hours from Chataldja; 4 houses burnt by Greek insurgents.
6	Karadja-Ali ..	32	80	3 " " 20 " " "
7	Tabaklu	40	106	4 " " 35 " " "
8	Barova	9	26	3 " " 7 " " "
9	Doyoun-ova ..	15	38	3 " " 10 " " "
10	Kotcholou	43	113	3 " " 15 " " "
11	Kyzillar	37	69	4 " " 18 " " "
12	Tchakirlu	36	89	2½ " " 21 " " "
13	Koulooklu-ova ..	26	70	3 " " 13 " " "
14	Ginbeklu	57	154	2½ " " 10 " " "
15	Shatirlu-bala ..	28	74	1½ " " 9 " " "
16	Shatirlu-zir ..	24	43	1½ hour from Chataldja.
17	Darendilu-bala ..	21	49	2 hours from Chataldja; 1 house burnt by Greek insurgents.
18	Darendilu-zir ..			
19	Hand-abatlu ..	22	55	3 " " 12 houses " "
20	Aivalu	12	32	4 " " 4 " " "
21	Taushan-ova ..	48	128	5 hours from Hellenic border, 1 hour from Domoco; 3 houses burnt by Greek insurgents.
22	Vardarlu	16	87	6 hours from border, 1 hour from Domoco; 20 houses burnt by Greek insurgents.
23	Yukari-ova ..	58	158	5½ hours from border; 10 houses burnt by Greek insurgents.
24	Koyhe-ova	32	86	1½ hours from Domoco; 4 " " " "
25	Pashalu	32	49	2½ " " 32 " " "
				The villages in above list from No. 1 to No. 20 inclusive are in district of Chataldja; from No. 21 to No. 25 in that of Domoco.
	Total	765	1,908	

Turco-Greek Villages.

No.	Names of Villages.	Houses.			Male Population.			Remarks.
		Turkish.	Greek.	Total.	Turks.	Greeks (Christian).	Total.	
1	Kirlu (in Greek Hiliadou)	50	28	78	126	106	232	1½ hour from border, 32 Turkish houses burnt by insurgents and 12 Christian houses by Bashi-Bazouks.
2	Al-dognoushli ..	15	2	17	27	7	34	4 hours from border, 2 from Domoco; 10 houses burnt by insurgents.
								Both these villages are in sub-district of Domoco.
	Total	65	30	95	153	113	266	

Christian Villages (Greek).

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population.	Remarks.
1	Pidanie	41	159	½ hour from Hellenic border; 30 houses burnt.
2	Nen-hor	53	162	1 hour from Hellenic border.
3	Konyulu (in Greek Mundasha)	25	96	4 hours from Hellenic border; 17 houses burnt.
4	Yeraklu	31	114	1 hour from Domoco; 19 houses burnt.
5	Dramath	39	129	1½ hour from border.
				Above five villages are in sub-district of Domoco.
	Total	189	660	

Turkish Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek Tenants).	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
1	Bag-bashi	8	33	Bekir Bey, of Leskowie.
2	Tatar	34	89	Lebibeh Hanum, wife of Edhem Bey.
3	Pasha-magoulah ..	13	62	English Bey, of Leskowie.
4	Bair-klu	26	87	Mustapha Effendi, Mehmed and Said Aghas.
5	Lazar-bohu	42	149	Fatmeh Hanum.
6	Kara-Demirdji ..	40	103	Melek Hanum.
7	Colaklar	16	55	Halil Agha and brothers.
8	Armoutlu	12	49	Halil Agha and brothers.
9	Bekilu	39	129	Heirs of Ismail Bey.
10	Alhanlu	14	43	Zekirya Bey of Leskowie.
11	Orman-magoulah ..	6	15	Heirs of Ismail Bey.
12	Ashiklar	5	14	Ahmet Agha and Osman-Agha.
13	Kara-bairam ..	15	55	Hafiz Agha.
14	Olashlu	45	146	Nessibeh Hanum.
15	Semerlu	17	67	Zekirya Bey, of Leskowie.
16	Kozgoular ..	33	89	Roshiyé Hanum and Ahmet Agha.
17	Evrenler	9	30	Omer Bey, of Leskowie.
18	Djin	8	30	Omer Bey, of Leskowie.
19	Bey-kouroi ..	34	109	Sheh Bey, of Chataldja.
20	Hadji Omer ..	21	54	Hafuz Agha and Osman Agha, of Tirnova.
21	Kintchuk-Ametlu ..	28	96	Omer Bey of Leskowie, Shevket Bey, and Hussein Bey.
22	Kuntchuk-Ahmet ..	23	82	Sons of Edhem Agha, Cadri Agha, and Sidoullah Bey.
23	Ibridjilar	28	83	Ahmet Effendi, of Larissa.
24	Sari-Kniya	15	50	Hafuz Agha and Osman Agha of Tirnova.
25	Hadji-ovasi ..	32	79	Nedjib Bey, of Larissa.
26	Hamidlu	59	138	Heirs of late Fuad Pasha, of Constantinople.
27	Kamilidji	..	18	Tahir Agha. The estate being in vicinity of Chataldja, the tenants dwell in that town.
28	Reis	6	16	Yussuf Bey and Hamid Bey. Two houses burnt by insurgents.
29	Erdihan	18	44	Tourhelu, Sultan Teké.
30	Ureda	55	83	Tourhelu, Sultan Teké.
31	Gherinezlu ..	9	32	Muhtar Agha. Six houses burnt.
32	Hanum-Attik ..	4	15	Wife of Shevket Bey. The estates from No. 1 to 32 are in district of Chataldja.
33	Agour-Yuma ..	67	152	Crown property. Twenty houses burnt by insurgents.
34	Daoudlu	76	211	Daughter of Ahmet Shukri Effendi. Thirty-six houses burnt by insurgents.
35	Zeljant	24	59	Crown property
36	Derbent-Courfu ..	20	46	Crown property. Twenty houses burnt.
37	Avuttza	53	147	Crown property.
38	Kiopekly (in Greek Ali Feki)	19	52	Elias Agha. Nineteen houses burnt by insurgents.
39	Cara-hassan ..	9	26	Hussein Agha. Three houses burnt by insurgents.
40	Tourbanli	20	49	Hussein Agha. Fifteen houses burnt by insurgents.
41	Sharmitza	54	165	Alush Bey.
42	Juba	34	95	Dervish Bey and Djellal Effendi.
43	Bekirler	35	100	Omer Agha, Iskender Agha, and Mustapha Agha.
44	Omrindi	96	288	Part Crown property and part to heirs of Hadji Hussein Pasha.
45	Tchofoular	32	101	Dervish Bey and Djellal Effendi. Two houses burnt by insurgents.
				The estates from No. 33 to 45 are in sub-district of Domoco.
	Total	1,226	3,615	

Greek Estates (Christian).

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Tenants (Christians).	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
1	Hadji Bey	26	70	Loko Horito, Greek.
2	Yussuflu	6	19	Dr. Anastasa Stereuli, Greek.
3	Demirlu	46	172	Pano Sakellario, Greek.
4	Sheh	17	53	Abraham Pasha, Armenian, late Khedive of Egypt's Agent at Constantinople.
5	Darendelu Bala ..	7	16	Glegor H. Lazaro, Greek, Russian Vice-Consul at Larissa.
6	Kubil-ova	6	16	Zissaki, Greek.
7	Inelu	15	35	D. Yulopolou, Greek.
8	Tchunlu	12	28	Christo Apostoli, Greek. From No. 1 to No. 8 in district of Chataldja.
9	Nizero (in Greek, Ayios Stephanos)	20	65	Ardonski and Andreu Banouti, Greeks. Twenty houses burnt by Greek insurgents.
10	Cavak (in Greek, Lefka)	21	75	Costa Douga, Greek.
11	Alhanlu	21	54	Banitza, Greek.
12	Veleshot	70	136	Photiade Pasha, Greek, Governor-General of Crete. Nine houses and 16 barns burnt by insurgents.
13	Messoudlu (in Greek, Musli)	25	85	Goulub Tchupalo, Greek. Nine houses burnt, four by insurgents and five by Turkish irregulars.
14	Panayia	21	48	Andon Costa and Dimitri Economo, Greeks. From No. 9 to No. 14 in sub-district of Domoco.
	Totals ..	313	872	

Turkish and Greek Joint Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Tenants (Christians).	Remarks.
1	Dowlaton	18	62	Togo Papa Sterio, Greek; and heirs of Aguiah Effendi, Turks. Four houses burnt by insurgents.
2	Darendilu-Zir ..	18	41	Economo, Greek, and Mehmed Agha, Turk.
3	Dereli	48	123	Yani, Andon, and Dimitri, Greeks, and Rustem Agha, Turk. Forty-eight houses burnt.
4	Tuzhon Saghir ..	5	14	Papazoglou, Greek, and Dervish Agha, Turk.
5	Pounari	44	124	Part Crown property, and part owned by Zaramba, Greek, and Hassan Agha, Turk. Four houses burnt by insurgents. No. 1 and No. 2 in district of Chataldja, and No. 3 to No. 5 in Domoco.
	Totals ..	133	364	

Summary.

Towns, Villages, and Estates in District of Chataldja and Sub-District of Domoco, in Thessaly.	Number of Houses.			Male Population.		
	Turkish.	Christian (Greek).	Total.	Turks.	Christians (Greek).	Total.
2 Towns	310	317	627	590	944	1,534
25 Turkish villages	766	..	766	1,908	..	1,908
5 Greek villages (Christian)	..	189	189	..	660	660
2 Turko-Greek villages	65	30	95	153	113	266
45 Turkish estates (Greek tenants)	..	1,225	1,225	..	3,615	3,615
14 Christian estates (Greek tenants)	..	313	313	..	872	872
5 Turkish and Christian joint estates (Greek tenants)	..	133	133	..	364	364
Totals	1,141	2,207	3,348	2,651	6,568	9,219

Inclosure 4 in No. 86.

Return of the Population of the Towns, Villages, and Estates in the District of Carditza, in Thessaly.

Towns.

Names.	Number of Houses.			Male Population.			Remarks.
	Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christians (Greeks).	Total.	
Carditza	450	185	635	863	922	1,785	It was only after the Crimean War that Christians were allowed to possess houses in the town of Carditza.
Fener (Phanari) ..	125	200	325	240	671	911	
Totals ..	575	385	960	1,103	1,593	2,696	

Mixed Turkish and Christian Villages.

Names.	Number of Houses.			Male Population.			Remarks.
	Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christians (Greeks).	Total.	
Frango	9	35	44	18	98	116	Both in Plain of Carditza, and about one and a-half hour from town of Carditza.
Looksada	5	46	51	12	95	107	
Totals ..	14	81	95	30	193	223	

Turkish Villages.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Population.	Remarks.
1	Omerlar	65	130	Burnt by Greek insurgents in 1878.
2	Aslihanli	58	150	35 houses burnt by Greek insurgents in 1878.
3	Hadji-Amirlar ..	21	47	17 " " " "
4	Karuhar	56	135	20 " " " "
5	Djuma (Pazaroki) ..	60	164	10 " " " "
6	Baltalar	19	29	
7	Karadjadli	72	148	
8	Haibal	19	38	16 houses burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878.
	Totals ..	370	841	

Christian Villages.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Greek Male Population (Christians).	Remarks.
1	Coulouryanli ..	17	56	In Agrapha Mountains, and not far from Greek border.
2	Mezillo	6	21	" " " "
3	Petril	60	117	" " " "
4	Leondit	24	71	" " " "
5	Vronghiana ..	83	206	" " " "
6	Arghiri	23	40	" " " "
7	Trizol	23	45	In Agrapha Mountains.
8	Knistovo	22	36	In Agrapha Mountains, and about 3 hours from Greek border.
9	Martinzko	24	37	" " very near the border.
10	Sliplana	31	93	" " " "
11	Spirelio	8	20	" " 2 hours from border.
12	Vlaish	15	41	" " " "
13	Cooplesh	6	11	" " " "
14	Stephanisda ..	27	58	" " very near the border.
15	Gribana	12	19	" " about 2 hours from border.
16	Bokovitza	53	120	" " " 5 " "
17	Golgovitza	9	26	" " " 4 " "
18	Iinshikovo	35	118	" " " 6 " "
19	Molintzko	25	38	" " " 5½ " "
20	Mesco-Voon ..	8	19	" " " 5 " "
21	Pillio-Castro ..	109	328	In Plain of Carditza, and about ½ hour from town of Carditza.
22	Canallia	200	671	¼ of an hour from town of Fener.
23	Grilista	107	359	In Agrapha Mountains, and about ½ hour from Fener.
24	Portiza	39	114	" " and about 3 hours from Carditza.
25	Koshkina	66	235	In Plain of Carditza, and about 2½ hours from Carditza.
26	Rhodo	120	281	In Agrapha Mountains, and about 3 hours from Carditza.
27	Messi-Nicola ..	157	396	" " " 3½ "
28	Vuonesh	110	301	" " " 4 "
29	Neo-hor	58	174	" " very near the border, and 6 hours from Carditza.
30	Kenshia	47	158	" " 1½ hour from border, and 7 hours from Carditz.
31	Bilayin	4	20	" " ¼ hour from border.
32	Shermenico ..	68	207	" " ½ "
33	Bizoki	31	92	" " 1 "
34	Floreshi	50	129	" " 1½ "
35	Zeretéh	56	161	" " 3 "
36	Nevro-Voonista ..	27	56	" " 3 "
37	Shim	50	126	" " 1¾ "
38	Regato	46	90	" " 5 "
39	Vaticanon ..	24	39	" " 4 "
40	Sclatina	83	179	" " 4 "
41	Rendina	206	455	" " 1 "
42	Yanilzan	19	55	" " close to border.
43	Pippa	16	42	" " 1 hour from border.
44	Chizi	73	171	In Agrapha Mountains, 1 hour from border; was nearly all burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878.
45	Dramista	42	141	In Agrapha Mountains, 2 hours from border; 15 houses burnt in 1878, by whom unknown.
46	Smoko-dyo	73	241	In Agrapha Mountains, 4 hours from border; 15 houses burnt by insurgents in 1878.
47	Thrapshin	45	100	In Agrapha Mountains, 6 hours from border; 10 houses burnt by insurgents in 1878.
48	Boskhavo	30	86	In Agrapha Mountains, 1½ hour from border.
49	Footyana	25	99	" " ½ "
50	Lukoresh	27	103	" " 1 "
51	Voonishta	39	138	" " 4 "
52	Titni	24	78	" " ¼ "
53	Castania	58	141	In Agrapha Mountains, ¾ hour from border; 13 houses burnt by Greek robbers in 1878.
54	Mustro-Yani ..	61	197	In Agrapha Mountains, ¼ hour from border.
55	Goissa	37	104	" " 3½ hours from border.
56	Apidia	35	100	" " 3 "
57	Porti	63	149	" " 5 "
58	Vrosht-Yuani ..	19	63	" " 4 "
59	Catali	44	95	" " 1 "
60	Zoglop	86	182	In Agrapha Mountains, 2 hours from border: 1 house burnt by Greek robbers.
61	Ayi-Ghiorghi ..	111	305	In Agrapha Mountains, 1½ hour from border; 15 houses burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878.
	Totals ..	3,105	8,182	

Estates owned by Turks.

No.	Names.	No. of Houses.	Christian Tenants, Male Greeks.	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
1	Daoud	45	141	Mehemed Bey and Tefvik Bey.
2	Tchaoush	28	93	Yacoub Bey and brothers.
3	Sarakina	20	54	Part owned by Crown and part by Osman Bey.
4	Luzda	13	20	Osman Bey.
5	Califon	76	215	Bedri Bey.
6	Delli-Ibrahim ..	32	87	Naim Effendi, Ismail Effendi, and Osman Bey.
7	Russo	46	123	Yacoub Bey, Curaulil Bey, and Abbas Bey.
8	Kria-Vriss	32	95	Bekir Bey and brothers.
9	Zaim	29	92	Rustem Pasha.
10	Hormina	21	74	Hassan Effendi and brothers.
11	Fener-Magoullah ..	65	228	Suleiman Effendi and brothers.
12	Magoulitza	53	153	Hadji Hussein Agha.
13	Lazarini	35	118	Dervish Bey and Suleiman Agha.
14	Ghilandi	29	110	Part owned by Crown and part by Omer Agha.
15	Mouzek	124	328	Crown property. Nearly three-fourths destroyed by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878.
16	Miroos	72	232	Malik Pasha.
17	Cortush	47	193	Ditto.
18	Kapoudji	36	103	Ditto.
19	Gorgovitess ..	35	86	Ditto.
20	Calogoritza	16	47	Hallil Agha and Ismail Agha.
21	Rizova	29	125	Bekir Bey and brothers.
22	Koppa	33	89	Dervish Bey.
23	Pirgo	20	70	Djellil Agha and brothers.
24	Pitzari	84	248	Part owned by Crown and part by Emin Bey.
25	Magoullah-Mustapha ..	107	330	Fatmeh Hanum.
26	Mataranga-oglou (in Greek, Mataranghitaïca)	8	21	Ditto.
27	Merihovo	65	230	Rustem Pasha.
28	Mauri-hor	72	292	Ismail Effendi and brothers.
29	Rukova	38	119	Muhtar Bey and Haidar Effendi.
30	Zarkunades	31	112	Hussan-ulledin Bey.
31	Filia	33	120	Husni Bey.
32	Hornoi	26	88	Ditto.
33	Magoullah-Malakask ..	40	110	Mehmed Ali Effendi and brothers.
34	Gherbiss	57	204	Raghib Bey.
35	Pera-Prastani ..	117	480	Tahir Bey.
36	Khorda	19	63	Mehmed Bey.
37	Delli-Velli	17	52	Dragoti Ibrahim Bey.
38	Kaziaish	51	123	Feizoullah Agha and Feizi Bey.
39	Cavarnikos	35	79	Mushin Agha. The residence and magazines of proprietor burnt by Greek insurgents in 1878.
40	Paliuri	41	96	Mushin Agha.
41	Loutros	80	194	Ditto. Some of the houses damaged by Greek insurgents in 1878.
42	Halambress ..	40	99	Salik Agha.
43	Roum-Caralar ..	50	158	Salik Bey.
44	Kuprulji	87	126	Crown property.
45	Djumah-Pasaraki ..	47	85	Ismail Pasha.
46	Pirgo-Mataranga ..	32	106	Fatmeh Hanum. Twenty houses burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878, after the regular troops drove out the Greek insurgents.
47	Muskoloor	65	193	Ismail Pasha. Sixteen houses burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878, after insurgents were driven out by regulars.
48	Sofades	269	759	Ismail Pasha. Twenty-five houses, church, and school burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878, same day as Pirgo Mularanga and Muscoloor villages were reoccupied by Turkish regular troops.
	Total ..	2,384	7,211	

Estates owned by Christians.

No.	Names.	No. of Houses.	Christian Tenants, Male Greeks.	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
1	Zoulfekiar	26	94	Monastery of St. Corona.
2	Crania	43	156	Part owned by Abraham Pasha, Armenian, and part by Monastery of St. Corona.
3	Calogrinna	37	148	Abraham Pasha.
4	Murko	48	134	Ditto.
5	Tchamash	20	33	Ditto.
6	Ayi-Yanni	7	25	L. Tchopalos, Greek.
7	Mejdan	120	418	Christaki Effendi, Greek.
8	Palio-hor	37	100	Ditto.
9	Velesh-Bozaiti ..	25	74	Pano and brothers, and Mihal Philippa, Greeks.
10	Vunuri	60	145	Christo Bletchaki and Church of St. Nicola, Greek.
11	Pappa Rigo ..	10	19	Yanaki Harrissiadi, Greek.
12	Koshkina	66	235	Athanase of Tricalla and Tchilso Pano, Greeks.
13	Baltalar	30	111	Athanase Calpakar, Greek.
14	Stoonga	47	122	Monastery of St. Corona.
	Total ..	590	1,844	

Estates owned jointly by Turks and Christians.

No.	Names.	No. of Houses.	Christian Tenants, Male Greeks.	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
1	Issari	71	189	Part owned by Tevfik Bey and brothers, and part by Greek Church.
2	Sheklitzo	65	208	Bekir Bey and others, and Monastery of Petra.
3	Marromati	121	362	Part owned by Crown and part by Greek Church. 84 houses and magazines burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878.
4	Comides	54	170	Part by Malik Pasha and part by Monastery of St. Corona.
5	Cunena	54	182	Part by Rustem Pasha, and part by Spiro, of Conitza, and Greek Church of St. Pannyia.
6	Velesh-Tahib ..	87	333	Djafer Bey, Elia (Jew), of Janina, and Greek Church of St. John.
7	Matoranga	134	397	Heirs of Tevfik Pasha and Greek Church of St. George. More than two-thirds of the village burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878, after the insurgents were driven out by the troops.
	Total ..	586	1,841	

Summary.

Towns, Villages, and Estates in District of Carlitza.	Houses.			Male Population.		
	Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christians (Greeks).	Total.
2 towns	575	385	960	1,103	1,593	2,696
2 mixed Turkish and Christian villages (Greek)	14	81	95	30	193	223
8 Turkish villages	370	..	370	841	..	841
61 Christian villages (Greek) ..	..	3,105	3,105	..	8,282	8,282
48 Turkish estates (Greek tenants) ..	..	2,304	2,304	..	7,211	7,211
14 Christian estates „ „ ..	..	590	590	..	1,844	1,844
7 Turkish Christian joint estates (Greek tenants)	..	586	586	..	1,841	1,841
Total	959	7,111	8,070	1,974	20,964	22,038

Inclosure 5 in No. 86.

Return of the Population of the Towns, Villages, and Estates of the District of Tricalla, in Thessaly.

Towns.

Towns.	Number of Houses.				Male Population.				Remarks.
	Turkish.	Christian.	Jewish.	Total.	Turks.	Christians (Greeks).	Jews.	Total.	
Tricalla (the ancient Trikka)	409	1,108	61	1,578	969	2,107	171	3,247	12 hours distant from Larissa

Turkish Villages.

(Nil.)

Christian Villages (Greek).

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greeks).	Remarks.
1	Yenesh	18	45	3½ hours from Tricalla.
2	Kimmour Lépenitza ..	64	129	5 „ „
3	Vamakordi	56	123	5 „ „
4	Panesh	27	82	6 „ „
5	Calabaka	171	491	
6	Castroki	140	346	3½ „ „
7	Hassan-Caliviá ..	28	80	5 „ „
8	Mavrel	66	244	5 „ „
9	Mindravel	4	6	5½ „ „
10	Smolin	145	361	6 „ „
11	Porta-Bazaar ..	*52	126	3 „ „
12	Dramisdi	26	51	5 „ „
13	Tirná	70	126	6 „ „
14	Landjo	12	25	6 „ „
15	Tibni	5	8	5 „ „
16	Caloyeros	17	38	5½ „ „
17	Zitil	9	18	5 „ „
18	Palio-Caria ..	27	49	5 „ „
19	Vitchana	9	19	5 „ „
20	Coutchana	41	73	6 „ „
21	Verchista	65	87	14 „ „
22	Cournesh	37	48	13 „ „
23	Valeni	13	22	12 „ „
24	Cothim	21	36	14 „ „
25	Merocovo	70	130	16 „ „
26	Courfur	8	12	14 „ „
27	Caproï	13	20	15 „ „
28	Grévenoshel ..	23	34	16 „ „
29	Shklivino	9	11	14 „ „
30	Pabtour	32	58	14 „ „
31	Dubeni	15	26	14 „ „
32	Bourkovo	26	35	13 „ „
33	Moukteharn ..	63	131	14 „ „
34	Tephloshel	32	99	12 „ „
35	Cammini	49	83	12 „ „
36	Kitrassia-Meidhn ..	19	45	9 „ „
37	Tcharoncos ..	21	57	8 „ „
38	Ostrovó	82	249	Omitted in Mr. Blunt's notes.
39	Cacoplevri	49	129	
40	Tchapournia ..	39	96	
41	Paraskevi-hiss ..	19	33	
	Total	1,612	3,886	

* Thirty-five houses burnt by Turkish irregulars in 1878.

Christian Villages (Vlach).

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population.	Remarks.
1	Bourovico	52	161	About 8 hours from Tricalla.
2	Cóklès	18	65	„ 8 „ „
3	Goodovazda ..	51	127	„ 7 „ „
4	Vendista	112	324	„ 9 „ „
5	Castania	100	557	„ 9 „ „
6	Sklinitza or Skliniassa	87	312	„ 15 „ „
7	Huliki	103	310	„ 15 „ „
8	Lepenitza	54	156	„ 15 „ „
9	Cotori	38	119	„ 14 „ „
10	Dragovisdi ..	72	210	„ 14 „ „
11	Velitchana	24	83	„ 12 „ „
12	Dooliana	45	158	„ 10 „ „
13	Comia	370	1,227	„ 10 „ „
14	Yovna	35	100	„ 7 „ „
15	Pirniango (in Turkish Pirlanko-bala*)	40	119	„ 7 „ „
16	Kato-Pirniango (in Turkish Pirlanko-zir†)	27	71	„ 6½ „ „
17	Footyuna	9	21	„ 8 „ „
18	Klinoyós	107	272	„ 7 „ „
19	Gurliki	153	372	„ 14 „ „
20	Djiurtcha	81	311	„ 14 „ „
21	Desi	56	205	„ 10 „ „
22	Pira	39	105	„ 10½ „ „
23	Veternitto	38	129	„ 10 „ „
24	Pertouli	43	131	„ 9 „ „
	Total	1,874	5,645	

* Bala = high. † Zir = low.

Turkish Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek Turkish).	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
1	Shervota	63	126	Tsiflir Bey, of Larissa.
2	Gourdji	19	44	Hamid Bey, of Larissa.
3	Poliana-Kebir ..	43	81	
4	Polinna-Saghir ..	38	107	Ali Bey and Fetah Agha, of Tricalla.
5	Raptchista	44	90	Heirs of Arif Bey.
6	Cozlidja (in Greek Caries	14	28	Nemetti Haidar Bey, of Tricalla.
7	Calivia-Kebir ..	121	447	Daughter of Ismail Pasha.
8	Aya-Kiryaki ..	19	68	Hadji Mehmed Agha and Refiat Agha, of Tricalla.
9	Zaptchios	21	35	Hadji Abdul Effendi, of Tricalla.
10	Tchash	10	19	Ibrahim Effendi, of Janina.
11	Lestino	12	24	Halil Agha, of Tricalla.
12	Mertzi-Kebir ..	23	47	Nemetti Bey and Hadji Abdul Effendi, of Tricalla.
13	Mertzi-Saghir ..	43	88	Cadri Bey, of Tricalla.
14	Megarki	37	99	Djuffer Agha.
15	Sarakina	26	60	Nemetti Bey and Hadji Mehmed Ali, of Tricalla.
16	Valomandri ..	8	12	Heirs of Arif Bey.
17	Idiaressi	47	124	Dallina Agha and Suleiman Agha, of Tricalla, and Tsiflir Bey, of Larissa.
18	Toshkessi	21	27	Daughters of Ahmet Bey Pashiko, of Tricalla.
19	Niklitch	4	8	Ditto.
20	Prodromo	18	38	Ditto.
21	Ksilloparek ..	9	20	Behram Agha, of Tepedelen.
22	Listana	11	23	Nepietti Bey, of Tricalla.
23	Tchagali	21	31	Heirs of Arif Bey, of Tricalla.
24	Tcharek-Magoullah ..	18	43	Suleiman Agha and Dallina Agha, of Tricalla.
25	Valtchinos	19	33	Hadji Hidayet, of Tricalla.
26	Papa Randja ..	22	34	Sons of Mehmed Agha, of Tricalla.
27	Ghirjan	89	260	Crown property.
28	Djigotti-Kebir ..	120	278	Rushdi Effendi, of Larissa.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek Tenants).	Remarks.
29	Bukhulou (in Greek, Clocoto)	21	33	Hamid Bey, of Larissa.
30	Yorganat	24	71	Suleiman Bey and Idris Agha.
31	Nomi	35	95	Omer Bey and Djafer Bey, of Tricalla.
32	Glinos	20	83	Hamid Bey, of Larissa.
33	Patoulia	26	52	Sons of Mehmed Effendi.
34	Kurbali	40	126	Daughter of Ahmet Bey Pashako, of Tricalla.
35	Petropolu	25	75	Hadji Abdul Latif Effendi and Omer and Djafer Beys, of Tricalla.
36	Kirtchini	60	214	Suleiman Bey, of Leskowic, and Ali Bey, of Tricalla.
37	Voivoda	52	153	Crown property.
38	Baksa	28	79	Refiat Bey, Abdi Bey, and Ahmet Bey, of Tricalla.
39	Catiri	12	37	Hadji Mehmed Agha, of Tricalla.
40	Sotira	18	50	Daughter of Ahmet Bey Pashako, and Hadji Mehmet Ali Agha, of Tricalla.
41	Selim-Oglou ..	6	11	Ahmet Effendi.
42	Longaki, (in Turkish, Orman-harem) ..	8	24	Shaban Agha.
43	Crinitza	20	74	Gehaish Effendi and Abdi Agha, of Tricalla.
44	Zoolitani	26	91	Refiat Bey, of Tricalla.
45	Tirnovo	24	100	Suleiman Bey, of Leskowic.
46	Zavlania	47	175	Aliba and Mahtar Beys, of Leskowic.
47	Kopirna	34	82	Dalikan Agha and Hadji Ali Bey, of Tricalla.
48	Aspro-Klissia ..	20	46	Elmas Bey and Rustem Bey.
49	Ozenat	10	36	Tefvik Bey.
50	Zimnateh	36	108	Arif Effendi and Alaeddin Effendi, of Tricalla.
51	Yenicar	43	118	Tevik Bey and Suleiman Agha, of Tricalla.
52	Kurshova	45	156	Hadji Latif Agha and Hadji Behram Agha, of Tricalla.
53	Shikia	7	22	Arslan Bey.
54	Lopnisso	27	76	Arif Bey, of Tricalla.
55	Yurdar	5	7	Nimetli Bey and Hadji Abdul Effendi, of Tricalla.
56	Vishi-Reina ..	9	12	Suleiman Agha Ghiata, Fetah Agha, and Hakim Effendi.
57	Sirondja	23	60	Suleiman Agha Ghiata.
58	Djenaradess ..	20	64	Suleiman Agha, of Leskowie.
59	Bozovo	21	53	Fazli Effendi, of Janina.
60	Culopod Djimova ..	13	21	Hallil Agha.
61	Velenish	39	88	Omer Agha and Rustem Agha.
62	Tahangrous ..	19	44	Vakouf property.
63	Miritza	42	111	
64	Vakouf Varbof ..	21	52	
	Totals	1,848	5,058	

Christian Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek Tenants).	Remarks.
1	Stephanessa ..	11	23	Names of proprietors— Abraham Pasha, Armenian.
2	Osman Ahmet Agha ..	11	16	" "
3	Vushtit	54	241	" "
4	Varyani	14	46	" "
5	Djogotti-Saghir ..	22	86	" "
6	Baya	40	172	" "
7	Phlamoori	*	98	" "
8	Neolos	140	390	Christaki Effendi, Zographos, Greek.
9	Zarko	235	725	" " "
10	Selatina	84	263	Musuros Pasha Greek, Ottoman Ambassador, London.
11	Viritidji	5	15	" " " "
12	Vitoma	6	16	Greek monastery of Vitoma.
13	Gourgoyir	25	82	" " Doushko.
14	Doushko	29	83	" " Vitoma.
15	Palio-milia	6	11	" " Halik.
16	Corbovo	11	32	" " Corbovo.
17	Ayia Triadu ..	1	5	" " Ayia Triadu.

* Tenants dwell in town of Tirnovo.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek Tenants).	Remarks.
18	Ayios Stephanos ..	1	9	Greek monastery of Ayios Stephanos.
19	Tarbanat	2	6	" " Ayia Triada.
20	Bukovo	15	35	" " Ayia Triada.
21	Bounasha	1	5	" " Bounasha.
22	Tchelizmá	9	19	" " Vitoma.
23	Carin	1	8	" " Carin.
24	Ilibanda	11	30	" " Carin.
25	Lenga-Perivolak ..	6	17	" " Meteora.
26	Conosco	28	86	" " Ayios Stephanos.
27	Cato (Lower) Bourshani	8	14	" " Ayios Stephanos.
28	Apano (Upper) Bourshani	5	16	" " Vartarin.
29	Gavaliora	6	10	" " Ayia Kiryaki.
30	Libohovo	9	17	" " Libohovo.
31	Vilon	3	6	" " Libohovo.
32	Vitadess	3	5	" " Libohovo.
33	Stanyadess	10	25	" " Stanyadess.
34	Shipar	17	35	" " Meteora and Ayia Triada.
35	Parnakovi-rizo ..	9	19	Pano, of Melzovo, Greek.
36	Louyesht	15	28	Tako Yanousho, Greek.
37	Calogriani	15	46	Yanaki Nasho, Greek.
38	Sapihadess	9	20	Dimitraki, of Tricalla, Greek.
39	Ghortchitadess ..	9	21	Christo Nicolaki, Greek.
40	Lepenitza	22	42	Vassilaki Ghiorghi, Greek.
41	Vurlohor	11	25	Christo, of Castania, Greek.
42	Kirassia-Efak ..	11	30	Yanaki, of Castania, Greek.
43	Calopodak	10	16	Mehadaki, of Castania, Greek.
44	Senitza	25	41	Chinogaki Djemo, of Castania, Greek.
45	Kirassia-Sino ..	8	22	Nicolaki, Greek.
46	Armout Tchoka ..	28	72	Hadji Zeko, Greek.
47	Ai Ghiorghi ..	14	17	Ghiorghaki Coruka, Greek.
48	Pertchoungai ..	33	65	Nicolaki, of Castania, Greek.
49	Rakova	1	2	Giigor, of Kolchana, Greek.
50	Polop	6	10	Christo, of Pira, Greek.
51	Giyunth	4	6	Costa, of Pira, Greek.
52	Hidjadess	18	44	Mihal and Yani Luka, Greeks.
53	Baldino	17	30	Yanaki Andonaki, Greek.
54	Yorghitza	21	46	Dimitri Zoga, Greek.
55	Gabrova	19	47	Vassilaki, of Castania, Greek.
		1,136	3,243	

Turkish and Christian Joint Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek Tenants).	Remarks.
1	Beletz	*41	85	Names of proprietors— Daughter of Ahmet Bey, Pashako, and Monastery of Doushko.
2	Tchelikhidji	37	84	Abraham Pasha, Armenian, and sons of Arif Bey.
3	Ronghia	16	22	Ramazan Effendi, of Tricalla, and Kiryaki, Greek, of Melzovo.
4	Vurlop	31	52	Sheriff Agha, of Tricalla, and Greek Monastery of Doushko.
5	Prevenda	19	49	One-third to Mehmed Agha, and two-thirds to Greek Monastery of Vurloam.
6	Husskioi (in Greek Bohonista)	66	220	Abraham Pasha (Armenian), and Bessim Effendi and Emin Effendi (Turks).
7	Pelopiteha	6	15	Arif Effendi and Hussein Hilmi Effendi (Turks), and Ghiorghi (Greek).
8	Ardan	51	251	Suleiman Agha and Omer Agha (Turks), and Hariro (Greek).
9	Vunia	40	191	Musuros Pasha (Greek), and Omer Bey and Nazim Effendi (Turks), of Tricalla.
10	Caveletchi	31	93	Suleiman Agha Ghiata and Hadji Ali Bey (Turks), and Greek Monastery of St. Stephanos.
11	Catucallo	14	27	Latif Bey (Turk), and Kiryaki (Greek).
	Total	346	1,072	

* Ten houses burnt by Greek insurgent bands.

Summary.

Towns, Villages, and Estates in District of Tricalla.	Houses.				Male Population.			
	Turkish.	Christian.	Jewish.	Total.	Turks.	Christians.	Jews.	Total.
1 Town	409	1,108	61	1,578	939	2,107	171	3,217
Nil Turkish villages	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
41 Greek villages	..	1,642	..	1,642	..	3,886	..	3,886
24 Vlach villages	..	1,874	..	1,874	..	5,045	..	5,045
64 Turkish estates (Greek tenants) ..	..	1,818	..	1,818	..	5,058	..	5,058
55 Christian estates (Greek tenants) ..	..	1,135	..	1,135	..	3,242	..	3,242
11 Joint estates (Turkish and Christian) Greek tenants	..	346	..	346	..	1,072	..	1,072
Total	409	7,953	61	8,423	939	21,011	171	22,121

Inclosure 6 in No. 86.

Notes by Colonel Synge respecting the state of the Peasant Farmers in Thessaly.

THE rich and fertile plains of Thessaly are almost without exception "tchiflik," i.e., freehold property of Beys and others.

Many of these tchifliks—notably the biggest and best—were formerly village communes, and were confiscated by Ali Pasha, of Janina, and afterwards sold.

The fields still retain their old names, according to their former proprietors, whose descendants now cultivate them as tenants, and probably some families still retain their ancient documents. Hopes are held out to these villagers by designing persons that their lands may be restored to their former state by the course of events.

The system of deriving revenue from these properties is by letting the lands to resident villagers, or by letting the whole property to a middle man, who derives what revenue he can from it. This farmer is called Multazzim.

This latter system is most baneful to the country as the Multazzim has no direct interest in the property, and only wishes to extract as much as possible from the estate in the time for which he is tenant, and the villager is the most considerable sufferer.

The ordinary system of collecting rent is by a division of grain at harvest; in some parts, where the villager furnishes his own seed, he takes two-thirds of the produce to the proprietor's one, the tithe being first taken from the whole. When the proprietor furnishes seed, it is usual to take out the tithe and seed, and then divide the remainder between proprietor and tenant.

For the protection of the villagers, and to prevent exactions on the part of the Multazzims, it has been laid down by Statute the various rates of payment which can be demanded. Some of the charges are as follows: ground-rent—where the house is the villager's property, and can be sold or disposed of by him—25 piastres per annum (4*s.* 6½*d.*); vineyards, 5 piastres to 15 piastres per dounoum (one-third acre); sheep, exceeding twenty head, which number are allowed gratis, 20 paras (1*d.*) per head; milk cows, 2 piastres; mulberry trees, for silk produce, 1 piastre each, &c.

A villager working one plough will sow about 40 Stamboul kilés, or 20 bushels of seed every autumn, of which 25 kilés, or 12½ bushels, will be wheat, and 15 kilés, or 7½ bushels barley; in addition, he will sow oats or tares for his cattle, of which the proprietor takes no portion, and in the summer maize or sesame, according to the nature of the soil.

The average yield of wheat is calculated at seven times the seed sown; that of barley about eight. This would give the peasant, one year with another, a revenu of about 20 Turkish liras from his wheat, and 5 liras from his barley, besides his gains from silk, produce of flocks and herds, sesame, hay, vineyards, bees, &c., one or more of which extra means of increasing his income every villager is possessed of, according to his industry and the number of his family.

His wants and expenses are few and small. His clothes are mostly made at home, and his fare is of the plainest. Oil, olives, salt fish, raki, beans (if not grown), paraffin, oil, coffee, and sugar, are his only household expenses. His taxes in peaceful times are the tithe of his crop, paid equally by the landlord and himself, verghi falling about 30 piastres each, and 43 piastres "bedel," or exemption from military service; in addition, if married, he pays 14 piastres per annum to his Bishop, and a proportion of grain to the village priest and church.

How does it happen that he is not better off. Unfortunately his Church prescribes so many feast days during the year on which field labours are suspended, that his working days—making no allowance for detention by weather or sickness—are limited to less than 200. The agent of the largest proprietor in Thessaly informed me that he made the bargain with such labourers as are employed on the various estates for fifty-eight feast days per annum, besides Sundays.

These days of idleness, and frequently of drunkenness, are the great drawback to the prosperity of the country. The necessary scarcity of labour offers no inducement to the introduction of capital, and allows a large proportion of fertile land to rest idle, and from the same cause, added to absenteeism, it rarely occurs that farming operations are carried on by the proprietors.

The indifferent roads or tracks by which grain has got to be sent for exportation, and the consequent high price of carriage are great drawbacks.

It is computed that 25,000 beasts of burden, with from 3,000 to 5,000 men, are employed in this traffic.

No. 87.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 43. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Longworth, relative to the conduct of Shefket Pasha in Thessaly.

I may add that, from all I have heard here, Shefket Pasha appears to have treated the Christian inhabitants in a patient and conciliatory manner during the three or four months he commanded the troops in Macedonia, before he was transferred to Thessaly.

On the 15th instant I sent to Sir Henry Layard a telegram worded as follows in answer to one I received from his Excellency relative to Shefket Pasha's presence in Thessaly:—

"Shefket Pasha was transferred in October last from command of Salonica to that of Monastir.

"Subsequently, as I reported at the time to your Excellency, he was sent to Larissa, where he is now serving as second in command under the orders of the Mushir, Abdi Pasha. I observed when at Larissa that he tried to conciliate the Christian community, with the leading members of which he cultivated very friendly relations."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Acting Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, July 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to furnish the following information respecting Shefket Pasha in answer to your despatch of the 10th instant.

This Ferik landed at Volo from Salonica on the 13th November last, and on the 15th assumed his military duties here as second in command under his Excellency the Mushir, Abdi Pasha.

He was subsequently also joined in his work by Ellem Pasha, a General his equal in rank, though his junior in appointment. Owing to the old age and infirmity of the Commander-in-chief, Shefket Pasha is virtually, though not nominally, the Military Governor of Thessaly.

The duties which have thus devolved on this officer have been discharged by him during my time at Larissa in a praiseworthy manner. It is chiefly due to him, to his zeal, energy, and firmness, that brigandage in the province had of late decreased to so

considerable degree, and that the inhabitants now enjoy a comparative amount of safety.

The character of Shefket Pasha must have greatly altered since the unfortunate occurrences in Bulgaria. He now evinces an earnest conciliatory spirit in his relations with the Christians, and a humane, moderate, and generous disposition in all his doings.

The man, such as he is at present, is liked by the people, feared by their oppressors, and adored by the soldiers.

In fairness I should, moreover, add that, notwithstanding continuous observation and careful inquiry, I have so far discovered only what is good in his present conduct, or, in other words, nothing that can in any way cast any further reproach or discredit on this unhappy individual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 88.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 6.)

(No. 45. Political.)
Salonica, July 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, inclosed in your Lordship, copy of a despatch with one inclosure which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, furnishing some further information relative to the late Bulgarian insurrectionary movement in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, July 29, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my previous Reports upon insurrectionary movements in Macedonia from the direction of Bulgaria, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter from an English gentleman, giving some further information on the subject, which he has derived during his late visit to Monastir.

The name of the Dalmatian who, as stated in this letter, joined the Bulgarian bands, is Nicola Yurch. He is a native of the village of St. Nicola, in the district of Lacovo, in Dalmatia, and, consequently, an Austrian subject.

I am told that the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at Monastir made an application to Mukhtar Pasha that this individual should be given up to him, and that his Excellency declined to do so without a special order from the Porte; not objecting, in the meantime, to the presence of an Austrian Consular delegate at the trial of the prisoner at the local military Court-martial.

The name of the Bulgarian sergeant is Philippovich. He is a native of Philippolis, and belonged to the legion of Bulgarian "Avengers" who were recruited by the Russians in Roumania early in 1877, when the late war broke out.

Both these prisoners have given evidence to the effect that the band they belonged to was recruited and organized in Bulgaria by the Archbishop of Ochrida for the purpose of invading and liberating Macedonia. Their evidence is corroborated by the Chief Stopho and other members of the bands who have unconditionally surrendered themselves to the Turkish authorities, and by some important documents which have been found on the body of one of the insurgent Chiefs.

These documents have been forwarded to the Porte by Mukhtar Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Mr. ——— *to Consul-General Blunt.*

Salonica, July 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to give you the following account of the result of my inquiries as to the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Monastir, from where I have just returned.

As far as I have been able to ascertain during my short stay at Monastir (about eight days) general security has greatly increased since the province has been erected into a vilayet, and placed under the Governorship of Ghazi Ahmud Mukhtar Pasha.

It must not be forgotten that immediately on his arrival at Monastir from the Greek frontier, Mukhtar Pasha found the country in a very agitated condition; invaded, in fact, by band of Bulgarian insurgents, organized and sent into the province by the Bulgarian Archbishop of Ochrida, himself the head of a Committee at Sophia and Kustendel. The largest band on entering the new vilayet towards the end of April last, mustered 170 men, and picking recruits on the way, became 250 strong, under the five following Chiefs: Karaiskaki, Stepho, Naoum, Caro Costaki, and Paolo. On entering the province they took up a strong position between Karajova, Florina, Castoria, and Veria; here they united themselves to the famous brigand Chief, Hamin, with 31 men. Mukhtar Pasha lost no time, and organized an attacking column of 150 determined men under the orders of Abeddin Bey, himself an old brigand. The Bulgarians, continually hunted from one place to another, lost nearly half their number. Forty were seized, and are now in the prisons of Monastir. Amongst the latter is a Dalmatian, the only stranger in the band, besides a sergeant of the late Bulgarian Legion of "Avengers." Between forty-five and fifty were killed.

The Chief Paolo gave himself up to the authorities. The Governor-General's orders were that all those who would not unconditionally surrender were to be shot on the spot, a full pardon being granted to those who gave themselves up.

About 100 surrendered. One of the Chiefs was shot, and on his body were found written instructions signed by the Archbishop of Ochrida. Stepho also surrendered. The other chiefs are still at large. In the last engagement between the troops sent by Mukhtar Pasha and the remaining brigands, Hamid was killed, and with him forty-five of his followers. In consequence of the energy displayed by the authorities, and the severe punishment inflicted on the so-called insurgents, the latter, that is to say, those still remaining, have fled. These are few, and are dispersed in small bands of four or five. In the generality of cases these are men who have not surrender on account of police offences, the Governor's amnesty not including those amenable to the common law. In conclusion I may state that general satisfaction is felt at the presence of a man like Mukhtar Pasha, and all those to whom I spoke on the state of the country seemed satisfied, and only fear that this Pasha may not be left in the place, and be replaced by a less energetic and intelligent man. The Bulgarians of the province, and there are many, seem perfectly satisfied.

Trade is gradually recovering from a very depressed condition, a natural consequence of the late war.

Several good appointments have been made by Mukhtar Pasha; for instance, Arif Bey, a very intelligent and upright young man, has, on the proposition of his Excellency, been made General Inspector of the local Tribunals.

One thing still remains a great desideratum which I am afraid is wanting everywhere. The condition of the gendarmerie is most deplorable, and unless this service is speedily reorganized no good of any kind can be expected.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ———.

No. 89.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 6.)

(No. 54. Political.)
Canea, Crete, July 28, 1879.

My Lord,

THE process of bringing the Cretan gendarmerie into a creditable state of discipline is a slow and laborious one, and encounters many difficulties.

The General Assembly had voted that it should consist of 1,818 men, including officers, involving an annual outlay of 30,000*l.*, and that in its formation preference

should be given to native born Cretans. Gradually most of the Albanians, who formerly constituted the bulk of the police, left the island, and their places have been taken by natives, the majority of whom are Christians, who had served in the ranks of the insurgents, so that the force may be said to be mainly composed of Cretans who last year bore arms against their Government.

It is evident that a body of men formed of such materials is not to be transformed into an efficient gendarmerie in a day, especially when the first condition of faithful service, that of punctual payment of wages is wanting. In the eastern parts of Crete, where the local revenue more than suffices for the cost of administration, and in Canea and its neighbourhood, which draw on the resources of Rethymo and Candia, the police are pretty regularly paid.

In the two last-mentioned sandjaks, however, the men are now three months in arrears of pay, and Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherinos, who reports this, adds: "the money collected from the tithes this month has been distributed to the civil officers of the Government, and the policemen are about to give in their resignation, as they receive now no bread, and, besides, they have no money to buy any. It is most necessary that his Excellency Photiades Pasha give immediate orders to pay the policemen without loss of time from the half of the custom-house revenue, as they are now in a very miserable state."

Mr. Vice-Consul Trifilli has a nearly similar story to tell, and he remarks that the gendarmes are much dissatisfied at the customs dues of Rethymo being sent to pay the expenses of administration in Canea.

I was careful to represent the state of affairs in Candia to his Excellency the Vali, and I called his attention to the injustice of paying the civil employés punctually while allowing the salaries of the zaptiehs to fall into arrears. His Excellency acknowledged that this was an evil, but assured me that in future no preference should be shown in the payment of one class of functionaries over another. He has now ready a sum of 3,000*l.* sterling, which represents the cost of putting the whole of the force into uniform, and is about half the amount already received from the lately conceded customs dues.

It is to be regretted that the number of the police had not been regulated by the supply of money at the disposal of the Government; 1,000 men punctually paid would have proved a more efficient force than nearly double that number paid irregularly and therefore dissatisfied. So great an alacrity, however, has been evinced to enter the police force by the former insurgent Chiefs, many of whom have no ostensible means of livelihood, that it was thought good policy to engage them on the side of order and so attach them to the new régime. This was over done, and it has been found necessary to dismiss some of the new-comers, and to refuse many candidates for admission, who thus form a nucleus of discontent. Poverty is at the bottom of much of the disorder prevalent in Crete, numbers of able-bodied men, anxious for work, having no means of gaining their livelihood, their being neither mining nor manufacturing industries to employ the surplus population, agricultural enterprize even being crippled by the want of capital and credit.

By the new system, moreover, no rations are given to the police, but in lieu thereof, an additional sum in cash. When therefore their month's pay is not forthcoming, the men are reduced to straits which sorely tries their sense of duty. It is the intention of Colonel Allix, who commands the gendarmerie in Crete, to distribute them in districts away from their own homes, but this can hardly be attempted till their pay can be counted on with certainty, as in a strange neighbourhood they could not so easily get their food on credit. The redistribution of the gendarmes in districts at a distance from their homes, as contemplated by the Colonel, is calculated to add greatly to their efficiency, since located as they are at present in their own districts, it is often found that they fail to carry out orders which are distasteful to their fellow villagers. A summons for a debtor to appear before the court at Canea or in pursuance of a sentence is frequently disregarded, and the local Governor is obliged to report that he is unable to carry out an unpopular order.

It would be unfair to visit on Photiades Pasha these shortcomings, which may be more properly accounted for by the novel manner in which the insurrection was brought to an end, as the Christians thereby first experienced a sense of their power, while losing much of the awe in which they had formerly stood of the Government. A certain time must be allowed for the feeling to be realized, already apparent in some of their leading men, that the Cretans have attained to the dignity of self-government, and that it is the common interest that the laws should be obeyed. The people have been introduced to the duties of self-government somewhat too abruptly

for their own good, and it was not to be expected that the new system should work all at once without a certain degree of friction. If the police have been remiss in the performance of some of their duties, they may fairly claim the credit due to the fact that there has been a sensible diminition of crimes of violence, the record of which disfigured quite lately so many of my Reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 90.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 32. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, August 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that General Todleben returned this morning.

The Grand Duke Michael also arrived and left to-day for the Caucasus in the Imperial yacht "Ereshlic."

The cruizer "Russia" arrived yesterday from Bourgas with troops.

I understand that this is the last voyage of any of these steamers to Odessa on this service, and that the few remaining stores and detachments will be landed at Sevastopol.

I believe I am right in saying that thirty-four steamers have landed troops here from Bourgas since the 28th May, but I have been unable to ascertain the number of troops brought.

It may, however, be assumed that each steamer brought upwards of 1,000 men.

Many thousands of invalids who had not been replaced had been previously brought.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 91.

Count Montgelas to the Marquis of Salisbury—(Received August 6.)

Dear Lord Salisbury, *August 4, 1879.*

OUR Consul-General at Scutari telegraphs, under date of yesterday, that our Consul at Prisrend reports, under the 29th July, to the effect that at Jacova anarchy is on the increase.

The Consul reports a connivance of the local authorities, who are supposed to have incited to the murder of [? Hulinzi] Bey, of Bosnia. Buslim Aga, a dismissed Major of gendarmerie, seems to be particularly implicated.

The cruel persecution of the [perhaps Fandjesen] continues. Nasif Pasha seems to direct the anarchical movement.

A band of 400 robbers has set out from Jacova in an unknown direction. If the Porte does not interfere immediately, taking strong measures, and punishing the culprits, whoever they may be, the situation in the Sandjaks of Prisrend and Pristina will be dangerously complicated.

Count Zichy is instructed to press for immediate steps. The Imperial and Royal Government would be very thankful if he were supported therein by his English colleague.

The proper names in the telegram I received this morning are, owing to faults in the cypher, rather uncertain, but the sense is quite clear.

I should be very much obliged if you would let me know whether you have heard anything on the subject, and whether you will be able to comply with Count Andrassy's wish.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. MONTGELAS.

No. 92.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, August 6.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Août*, 1879.

LES habitants des territoires cédés à la Servie ont présenté à la Sublime Porte et aux Représentants à Constantinople des Puissances co-signataires du Traité de Berlin une requête pour se plaindre des actes arbitraires et des procédés vexatoires dont leurs personnes et leurs propriétés sont l'objet de la part des autorités Serbes. Nous avons chargé notre Ministre à Belgrade de faire au Gouvernement Princier les représentations nécessaires; mais, pour atteindre le but que nous avons en vue, Sermed Effendi a besoin de l'appui de ses collègues. Je vous prie, par conséquent, de faire des démarches auprès de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères afin qu'il veuille bien inviter son Représentant à Belgrade à soutenir légitimement et efficacement Sermed Effendi dans les démarches qu'il fait pour le redressement des réclamations de ces malheureuses populations.

No. 93.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6, 1 P.M.)

(No. 67.) *Therapia, August 6*, 1879, 10·25 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to telegram No. 9, I have the honour to submit that Giers' agreement is not sufficient as it stands in the telegram. In order to enable us to resume negotiation here the point west of Karaourgan must be determined between Governments on arguments in Protocols.

According to telegram he agrees to a point on the parallel. Does he also admit second element, viz., that the point is on the watershed? If not, I beg to submit five following reasons in support of point west of Karaourgan being at the intersection of the watershed with the parallel:—

1. Shed is the natural and the best frontier.

2. The previous frontier (see Inclosure 1 in my despatch No. 23), passing to the west of Bardouz and Veniky, and thence towards Karaourgan, has followed continuation of same watershed.

3. It complies with condition "près."

4. It was shown me in Commission (see Protocol 2) as the termination of the previous frontier.

5. The Turkish and British Representatives on the Commission have recorded their opinion in favour of it.

No. 94.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 68.) *Therapia, August 6*, 1879, 12·15 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH regard to first part of your telegram No. 10, I have the honour to state that the fact of having a copy in my possession of the 1-verst map furnished by Russian Commissioner, and of your Lordship having tracing thereof, is conclusive evidence of its existence.

With regard to last part, I have the honour to reaffirm that map showing the previous frontier was at my request, and with the consent of the Commission, furnished to me. This is immaterial, and for our purpose it may be considered as never having been communicated, as I guarded myself by having the termination of previous frontier shown me in Commission, a point which was identical with that on the map. It was not until after I had accepted the point so shown that the Russian questioned its correctness.

No. 95.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 50. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6*, 1879, 2·30 P.M.

ASCERTAIN whether the Government to which you are accredited has received from the Servian Government an application to consent to the abolition of the Capitulations in Servia. If so, report their views on the subject.

No. 96.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6, 2·55 P.M.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 6*, 1879, 1·20 P.M.

HER Majesty's Commissioner wishes me to inform your Lordship that Prepolac line has been accepted by Austria. General Yahya Pasha, the new Turkish Commissioner, has arrived, and has announced that decision of the Porte will be given this week.

No. 97.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 16. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6*, 1879, 3 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government are in communication with foreign Powers on the subject of the abolition of the Capitulations.

An answer will be sent to your No. 30 as soon as possible.

No. 98.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6*, 1879, 4·30 P.M.

HAVE the Russians any troops still in Bulgaria? Please answer by telegraph immediately.

A question will be asked in Parliament to-morrow.

No. 99.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 431.) *Foreign Office, August 6*, 1879.
My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government have learned with much satisfaction from your Excellency's despatch No. 361 of the 30th ultimo, that the Emperor of Russia has conveyed to his Ambassador at the Porte His Majesty's stringent orders that the distribution of cartridges to the Gymnastic and other Societies in Eastern Roumelia, to which the attention of Her Majesty's Government has been directed by Mr. Consul-General Michell, shall be discountenanced by his Excellency, and that these cartridges shall, if so desired by the Commission and the other Powers, be handed over to the Governor-General of the Province.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot and Sir A. Paget.

No. 100.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 107.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1879.*

Sir,

I SENT you a telegram this afternoon requesting that you would inform me at once whether the Russians still have any troops within the limits of Bulgaria.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 101.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 19. Political.) *Erzeroum, July 17, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE, during the past week, received several letters from well-informed friends in Diarbekir, giving an interesting account of the proceedings there of the Imperial Commission of Reforms. From these I have extracted some portions, which will, I think, repay your Lordship's perusal, and copies of which are herewith inclosed.

It appears that the Commissioners are men of energy and ability, but that, having got into the hands of evil counsellors, they have been appointing to high judicial posts men some of whom I know personally to be of the most objectionable character.

The misfortunes under which this country is labouring are, I believe, primarily due to the corruption of the officials, and I quite agree with my correspondent that reform is impossible with such men as he names appointed to the new and important offices he describes.

We have a very pretty little intrigue exposed, worthy of Constantinople itself. Ahmed Kholoussy Effendi,* the Cadi, a man of wealth, energy, and ability, once a favourite candidate for the post of Sheik-ul-Islam, but now an exile from Constantinople, to which place he longs ardently to return, finds himself in a position to confer substantial benefits on Kiazim Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law, who, although in receipt of a very large salary, is extremely anxious to add to his resources by other means. The process is this—Kiazim Pasha receives very large douceurs† from candidates for the new, well-paid, and important appointments described; these he introduces and recommends to Kholoussy Effendi, who, anxious to curry favour with Kiazim Pasha (i.e., through him with the Sultan), exerts his undoubted influence with Abedin Bey, the first Commissioner, to obtain for Kiazim Pasha's protégés the posts he seeks for them. Abedin Bey, a stranger to the country, falls into the trap, from which he might, perhaps, have been saved had an English Consul knowing the country been on the spot.

Your Lordship will not be surprised, after reading my former despatches from Diarbekir, to learn that an official inquiry has been set on foot regarding the misconduct of Khoorshid Bey, the Mutessarif of Mardin, also a distinguished exile from the metropolis.

The state of the Midyad Kaza (which I visited in the spring, and whose terrible state I fully exposed in my despatch No. 22 of the 22nd March) is going from bad to worse.

It would appear that Abedin Bey is acting with praiseworthy energy in the matter of the tyrannous Kurdish Chiefs, whose names will most of them be familiar to your Lordship from my earlier despatches. It is to be hoped that the evil influence I have just now described in this despatch will not be exerted in favour of these Chiefs, but I should not be surprised later on to learn that such has been the case. The removal of Kiazim Pasha from Diarbekir is, I believe, highly desirable in the interests of reform.

It would appear from the information derived from my correspondents, that the instructions given by the Sublime Porte to the Imperial Commissioners must be very nearly identical with those given to the Commissioners for Erzeroum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

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* The same man who was sent by the Turkish Government on a mission to Afghanistan.

† In making this statement, I may say that I have no moral doubt on this subject; but it is, of course, impossible that I could prove it.

Inclosure 1 in No 101.

Letter addressed to Major Trotter.

Cher M. Trotter, *Diarbékir, le 30 Juin, 1879.*

SI je ne vous ai écrit jusqu'ici c'est que tout était dans le *statu quo*, tel que vous nous aviez laissé en partant; mais à présent les choses commencent à prendre une autre tournure.

Vous savez déjà qu'il nous est arrivé deux Commissaires, Abdin Bey et son collègue, Arménien Catholique, Manas Effendi. J'ai fait la connaissance de l'un et de l'autre par prédilection ou plutôt, à en juger par mes entretiens, j'ai eu plus de confiance dans le Commissaire Mahométan, car il n'est pas affecté, d'un caractère résolu et posé instruit, dit on, parlant plusieurs langues, du nombre le Français, avec grande facilité; il est Albanais, par conséquent énergique; on le dit natif de Janina. Il me semble, à moins que l'avenir ne me détrompe, dévoué à sa patrie et anxieux d'arriver aux moyens qui puissent améliorer le sort de son malheureux pays. Manas Effendi, en mission à Mardin, pour s'enquérir des plaintes portées contre le Mutessarif, dont la conduite est des plus déplorables, parle également le Français très-correctement; mais à en juger par une conversation que j'ai eu avec lui, il m'a semblé plus Royaliste que le Roi, du moins dans l'apparence; je ne veux pas cependant être téméraire; parfois les sentiments trompent facilement. Attendons donc les faits, qui sauront mieux fixer la certitude.

Malgré une opposition prononcé dans le Conseil des Réformes, Abdin Bey a démontré son énergie en faisant mettre en prison Abdulla Bey, de Silvan, Zutta Agha, de Koulpé tout en s'opposant à l'élargissement de votre ami Hamed Agha, &c. Il a fait déjà venir ici Fetah Bey, de Gerson, et Reschid Agha, Silvanti; nous attendons d'autres de ces honnêtes gens; pour un commencement c'est déjà quelque chose.

Celui qui peut se distinguer avec Abdin Bey c'est le Casi Ahmed Kouloussi Effendi, que vous avez connu ici. Vous savez déjà que cet homme est renommé à Constantinople pour avoir rempli de hautes positions et joué de rôles importants. Son concours aurait pu être de quelque utilité dans un pays où la corruption a détérioré presque tous les éléments administratifs, mais malheureusement Kouloussi Effendi a tout intérêt pour regagner la grâce de son auguste maître, d'être le très-humble serviteur de Kazim Pacha, beau-frère du Sultan; à tort ou à raison, il s'est imposé la charge d'exécuter tous les caprices du parent de sa Majesté.

Je regrette beaucoup, cher M. Trotter, que vous ne soyez pas parmi nous dans les circonstances actuelles, pour nous donner un coup d'épaule; car l'entreprise de la Commission à elle seule et sans le concours d'agents étrangers, est difficile et épineux. Que d'obstacles n'aura-t-elle pas à surmonter avant d'atteindre à ses fins? Apart les Beys et Aghas—oppresseurs des indigènes—on aura à combattre contre les intrigues de leurs influents protecteurs parmi les Notables et les Ulémas dont les ramèges influent souvent dans la capitale même, tel que nous l'avons vu du temps de notre ex-Gouverneur Abdurahman Pacha.

On se propose déjà de donner du fil à retordre à MM. les Commissaires, dès l'instant qu'il se traite d'exiler les premiers Chefs des brigands qui ravagent le pays et d'éloigner de pouvoir leurs complices et protecteur à la fois.

Un autre obstacle s'oppose en quelque sorte à la marche régulière des réformes, c'est la présence ici de Kazim Pacha, dont vous avez connu les qualités et capacités. Cette haute personne en qualité de beau-frère du Sultan, émet des opinions dans le Conseil des Réformes. Comme il est facile à se laisser influencer par les flatteurs qui l'ont captivé, nous avons lieu de croire que les funestes conséquences ne l'emporteront. Déjà quelques individus très-mal notés ont eu des postes. Dès lors, à quoi bon l'envoie de gens éclairés et capables dans les pays pour l'introduction des réformes et de la civilisation. Si l'on doit continuer à procéder de la sorte et ne pas laisser main libre aux Commissaires, tout sera un rêve et une chimère. Je compte prévenir l'Ambassade de ces faits, comme d'autres; faites-en autant de votre part dans l'intérêt général.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) ——

Inclosure 2 in No. 101.

Extracts from Letter to Major Trotter.

Diarbekir, June 30, 1879.

ONE of the Commissioners, accompanied by Mardiross Effendi, Broussali, left Diarbekir two weeks ago for Mardin, to call the Mutessarif to account for his mal-administration and gross bribery. I have not yet received any reliable account of his doings. I have only learned that he dismissed the members of the Medjliss and sent them to Diarbekir, and that he (Manas Effendi) was on the point of starting for Midyad, where affairs are going from bad to worse. If Manas Effendi can bring to light the misconduct of the Mutessarif he will probably put up to public auction the fine Arab horses, numbering about forty, which the Mutessarif collected in the name of His Majesty the Sultan. Should such be the case I shall try to buy a fine horse for you.

The affairs in Midyad, as I said above, are going from bad to worse. When the Mutessarif was there he gave notice to the people that he was there to listen to their complaints. Hundreds of petitions were presented to him, but without doing anything he returned to Mardin, and, of course, not with an empty purse.

About ten villages in the Midyad district (among others Shawl Awah, a village of 200 families) were attacked, five or six persons were killed and the houses were burned, of course all their effects being plundered. This was done by the son of Tamo Ganro and Heisayiné Osman.

Abedin Bey is a very intelligent, well-educated, and well-intentioned man, but, alas! from the beginning he has been surrounded by some discontented and revolutionary people, whose ruling spirit is the brother-in-law of the ruler of this Empire; you know whom I mean. If this person be not removed from this place no reform can possibly be introduced into this vilayet. I can assure you that neither the Vali nor any Commissioner dare say a single word against his will. Being connected with the highest personage in the realm they are all afraid of him, as by a single stroke of his pen he may in a moment ruin them. I do not yet know anything he has done or said against the introduction of the proposed reforms, but from the beginning he and the Judge took into their confidence those people who during the Governorship of the late Vali tried very hard to upset his government, not because the Vali was a bad Governor, but because he was too honest a person for them. On account of their ill-conduct and well-known bribery Abdul Rahman Pasha dismissed and never employed them. As soon as the Commissioners arrived this class of people were introduced to them through the above-mentioned high personage. The result of this was soon apparent; all of them were put on the Committees of Reforms, and a few days later each one of them received appointments of the highest importance: Feyzullah Effendi, ex-Vekil of the Mutessarif of Sert, with 3,000 piastres per month, to be Vice-President of the Court of Justice, and Suleimun Effendi, with 2,000 piastres, Assistant Procuror-General of Diarbekir. Hadji Mehmet Effendi, Vice-President, with 2,000 piastres, and Ibrahim Effendi, Assistant Procuror-General, with 1,500 piastres, at Mardin. Hussein Bey, Vice-President, and Fettah Effendi, Assistant Procuror-General, Sert. Said Effendi, the Kaimakam of Djejireh, Vice-President, and Ahmed Bey, Assistant Procuror-General at Malatia. With one or two exceptions all of them are very objectionable men. They are the Tellos, Fettah Beys, and Osmani Tamos of Diarbekir. All honest people feel this very keenly, and ask if His is the reform they were expecting. The above-mentioned persons are the very ones who need reforming, but Abedin Bey has actually nominated them, and applied to the Sublime Porte for approval. If they are going to place people like these at the head of such very important and delicate Departments, I can assure you no reforms of any degree can be introduced into this vilayet, especially in the Courts of Justice. If I had any official capacity I would, in a friendly way, point out to Abedin Bey the gross mistake he is committing, but now there is no one who dares say a word. I believe his Excellency the Vali made some objection, but it was of no avail. The Russian Consul appears to take no interest whatever in the matter. I hope the French Vice-Consul will say a word or two to Abedin Bey.

As soon as the Commissioners arrived they formed two Committees, one of which is composed of about thirty members and is called the "Committee of Reforms." It meets once a week to discuss what reforms it is necessary to introduce and what means are to be employed for the advancement of the vilayet, but up to this nothing has resulted from the deliberations of the wisest men in the town. The second Committee

is called the "Committee of Inquiry." In forming this last one the Commissioners gave notice to the public, through the newspaper and placards, that every kind of complaint and grievance would be listened to and examined by this Committee. Hundreds of people with petitions in their hands are to be seen daily waiting at the gate of Kiazim Pasha's house, where the Committee meet four times a-week. The petitions and petitioners are taken in one after the other, Abedin Bey examining each case with care and patience; but as to the result I have nothing yet to report. The only thing he has as yet effected is the imprisonment of Abdullah Bey, of Silivan, and Tillo Rashid Agha and Fettah Bey also arrived yesterday.

To judge whether these Commissioners will be able to effect anything the time has not yet come, but in a few days I shall be able to form a more decided opinion.

There is another Committee under the Presidency of Mukhtar Pasha, for the formation and organization of the gendarmerie.

To-day the Commissioners' Firman will be publicly read.

Diarbekir, July 5.

Yesterday Fateh Bey, of Kharzan, Tello, and some other Kurkish Chiefs, have been threatening to bring down the Kurds and massacre the Christians. They actually said this in the hearing of some Christians, though I do not think much of this; it was simply said, I believe, to frighten those poor Christians who have come here to complain against them; but I thought it was necessary to inform Abedin Bey. I therefore went to see him this morning. I found there the Russian Consul for the same purpose . . . When he left Abedin Bey desired to have my opinion about the case, &c., &c.

Kiazim Pasha is leaving to-day for Deyrik, and probably he will extend his journey as far as Tchermook.

No. 102.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 20. Political.)

Erzeroum, July 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to announce that a serious disturbance took place in this town on Monday, the 14th instant. For some time past there has been considerable ill-feeling between the Persians and Armenians of this city, which culminated on Thursday, the 10th instant, on which day a Persian youth enticed into his house and raped an Armenian girl of 12 or 13 years of age. The criminal was arrested by the Armenians and handed over to the Persian Consul, who ordered him to be kept in custody. On the following day the prisoner was allowed by the Persian cavass, who was in charge of him, to walk about in some place of public resort, where he was seen by some Armenians, who were much excited thereat. A large body of them waited on the Pasha to demand the close imprisonment of the culprit. To quell the excitement, the Persian Consul ordered the transfer of the prisoner to the custody of the local authorities; but the Armenian public was maintained in a state of fermentation by rumours that the Persian Consul was endeavouring to hush the matter up and to get the prisoner released on bail. The local authorities meanwhile, in spite of rumours to the contrary, had kept the Persian in prison, but the case still caused much excitement both amongst Armenians and Persians, the culprit being the son of a highly respected and popular member of the Persian community. While the irritation was at its height, on Monday a dispute arose in the shop of a Persian baker between a Persian and an Armenian. From words the disputants soon came to blows, while Persians and Armenians came hurrying to the assistance of their respective comrades; a free fight ensued, in which, as the Persians were mostly armed, while the Armenians had nothing but sticks or whatever else they could lay their hands on at the moment, the latter got the worst of it and fled, five of their number being wounded. Reports were at once circulated that a number of Armenians had been killed by Persians, the church bell was rung, great excitement prevailed, and large bodies of Armenians collected to go to revenge their comrades, some of them armed with revolvers, others with sticks, stones, or whatever they could lay their hands on. The Persians meanwhile, in large numbers and all armed with swords and daggers, were awaiting the attack, when most fortunately the Vali Pasha appeared on the scene, followed almost

immediately by large bodies of soldiers. Armenians and Persians were so anxious to get at each other that it was no easy matter to keep the would-be combatants apart, and, as far as I can learn, both parties for a time resisted the efforts of the soldiery to keep the peace, but, as the Persians were mostly shut up in their khan by the Pasha's orders, while the Armenians were in the street, the latter were the greatest sufferers, and at least ten more were more or less seriously wounded, many of them by soldiers, before quiet was restored.

Two or three revolvers were fired off by Armenians in the course of the fray, but no one appears to have been hurt by them.

Two soldiers were wounded, and one or two Persians are said to have been injured. There is no doubt that, had it not been for the timely interference of the Governor and troops, there would have been a much more serious riot, and many lives would probably have been lost.

There was, of course, great excitement all the rest of the day; the shops were closed, bodies of troops were posted in the principal places, and strong patrols traversed the streets. Guards were placed at the different Consulates, and every precaution has been successfully taken to prevent further disorders. It was fully expected by the best informed that there would be further disturbances, and the troops are still kept under arms, but happily everything is now quiet, and will, I hope, remain so.

I believe the soldiery behaved with great moderation, and I myself saw some of them perfectly steady under very great provocation.

The Persian Consul and the Armenian Bishop both addressed me long despatches on the subject of the fight, each one trying to throw the whole blame on the other community.

I replied at some length to both of them, and without giving an opinion as to who was to blame, I urged each one to do his utmost to calm down the excitement existing in his community. To the Bishop also I deemed it necessary to point out the necessity of instructing some of the wilder members of his flock of the absolute necessity of refraining from taking the law into their own hands, and resisting lawful authority.

The excitement amongst them was so high on the day of the riot that they actually set to and thrashed one of the leading members of their own community who was endeavouring to restrain them from violence.

I warned the Bishop that if the Armenians—even a few of them—opposed forcibly the authority of the Government they would not only have arrayed against the soldiery and the Persians, but also the whole of the Mussulman population of the town, with results which could only be most deplorable. The Turks of the city have hitherto not been mixed up in the affair.

I beg to inclose translation of an official communication I have received from his Excellency the Vali Pasha, explaining the measures he has taken for ensuring the maintenance of order. He explained the tenour of them to me personally on the morning following the riot, and I expressed my approval generally of the propositions he made.

The Vali has acted well in the matter, having himself interfered at considerable personal risk to separate the combatants, and he appears to have acted impartially towards both parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Mustapha Pasha to Major Trotter.

(Translation.)

ON the 2nd of this month, Monday, at 7 o'clock,* an encounter took place in the Göllbashi quarter in Erzeroum, between the Armenians and the Persians, in regard to which the Imperial Government took such measures as were necessary. In order that such occurrences might not occur again, the Provincial Council assembled, and issued orders to insure the safety of the inhabitants of the place, both native and foreign.

These orders command that no one shall carry weapons either by day or night; that no one shall engage in gambling; that all public-houses shall be shut at 11 o'clock in the evening; and if any one goes about armed within the city, and

* Turkish date and time.

resists the police and uses his arms, the law, as previously declared, shall be put in force against him. As regards the above-mentioned matters, orders have been given to the military department to make use of their arms if necessary. This order has been published to the people by placards posted in suitable places.

Every one shall occupy himself with his business as may be convenient. If, however, any one, contrary to his duty, occupies himself with affairs likely to cause disturbance to the public safety, or the quiet of the land, the law shall be put in force against him. We have determined and decreed that every one must act according to what has been ordered, and we have, therefore, made this known to all the Consuls of the foreign Powers in Erzeroum, to the military authorities, and to the officials of the police and to the Armenian Bishop, and we have published the announcement of these orders to the public generally.

They are also hereby made known to the English Consul, in order that he may inform of them any English subjects that may be in Erzeroum.

(Signed) MUSTAPHA PASHA.

No. 103.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 837. Very Confidential.)

Paris, August 6, 1879.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON, who is about to leave Paris for a short time, told me this afternoon that he could not help feeling seriously uneasy about the state of affairs at Constantinople.

There appeared, he said, to be no Ministry in point of fact, and everything was directed by the caprice of the Sultan, a man not without intelligence perhaps, but without steadfastness of purpose, and beset with a fear of assassins and conspirators which amounted to monomania.

The reports of the French Ambassador warned M. Waddington not to be taken by surprise by any act of folly or any "coup de théâtre" which might be the consequence of the fears of the Sultan as played upon for their own interests by the men who surrounded him.

M. Waddington went on to say that his own opinion was, that the Aarifi Ministry was merely a screen to mask the preparations of the Sultan for bringing Mahmoud Nedib back, and throwing himself into the arms of Russia.

There was, however, his Excellency observed, one advantage which the western Powers had over Russia. They had means of enabling the Turks to raise money, which the Russians did not possess.

M. Waddington desired me to represent to your Lordship that in his opinion it would be extremely impolitic for England and France either to facilitate a loan to Turkey, or in any way to afford pecuniary help to the Porte while the Government at Constantinople was in its present situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 104.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 51. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Philippopolis, August 6, 1879, 7·46 P.M.

THERE is a serious breach between M. Schmidt and the Governor-General. The former no longer attends the Council, and tells me he will resign by Monday unless he obtains satisfaction. He promises to tell me everything by Saturday, but until then he will only admit that the incident is calculated to upset the Governor-General.

No. 105.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7, 11·30 A.M.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1879, 10·56 A.M.*

M. BOERESCO, Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has arrived here on his way to the various capitals.

He goes to Berlin first, where he hopes to induce German Government not to insist on the systematic categories for the Jews to be emancipated under Stourdza's project. He says Government could not pass law for emancipation by category, but hope to be able to pass one for emancipation by nomination list of persons to whom rights of citizens would be granted on account of qualifications similar to those contained in categories. This list might, he considered, contain names of more persons than under Stourdza's project. He talks of going from Berlin, first to St. Petersburgh, and then to Paris and London, but he asserts his visit to St. Petersburgh to be merely complimentary, as he has no negotiations to conduct there.

The time before the meeting of the Chambers is so short that it does not seem likely that he would make such a long round without some better reason.

No. 106.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 7, 1879, 3·5 P.M.*

COLONEL CLARKE'S telegrams Nos. 67 and 68 will show you present state of Karaourgan controversy. His contention appears to be a just one. Everywhere else the watershed has been taken wherever practicable.

No. 107.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

Vienna, August 7, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

SERVIAN Government have made no communication about the abrogation of the Capitulations, but they have been informed that, after the Commercial Treaty and the railway question have been settled, the Austro-Hungarian Government would be prepared to discuss the question of the Capitulations.

No. 108.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

Berlin, August 7, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, Minister for Foreign Affairs will not be able to give me any answer respecting question of Capitulations in Servia till to-morrow afternoon.

No. 109.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7, 4·45 P.M.)

Sophia, August 7, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

BY official last private information, the very last Russian troops, consisting of a Cossack regiment, embarked at Rustchuk yesterday, so that there are now absolutely none left in Bulgaria.

No. 110.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 7, 1879.*

PLEASE ascertain from Austrian Government whether they have received a Russian Circular urging them to accept proposition of Italian Commissioner on Montenegrin boundary, as amended by Russian, and whether they have returned any answer. I have tried to get this information from Károlyi, but he knows nothing about it. Matter is complicated. On 21st ultimo Russian Commissioner accepted Italian proposition as amended by Sale, ruling that disputed frontier should be traced on map, not on ground. Bartolomei assures me that Russians have since changed their mind, and in the Circular he brought to me we are urged to accept Italian proposition as amended by Russian. Meanwhile, Giers urges Dufferin to accept provisional marks on ground, which is the Italian proposition, pure and simple. Can you throw any light on the confusion? I have nothing from Sale about it.

No. 111.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7, 5·45 P.M.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1879, 4 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN approval of Propolac frontier has been notified to their Minister at Belgrade. Sent to Her Majesty's Minister.

No. 112.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 598.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 7, 1879.*

YOURS No. 210.

All Berats obtained except for Everett and Kitchener. These have been applied for.

No. 113.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 213.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 7, 1879, 6·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 30th ultimo, Mr. St. John leaves for Prisrend through Scutari on the 9th instant.

No. 114.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 443.)
Foreign Office, August 7, 1879.

My Lord,

COLONEL CLARKE'S latest telegrams which have been forwarded to your Excellency explain the present state of the dispute respecting the frontier near Karaourgan.

The views of the British Commissioner appear to be just and reasonable.

In all the other Boundary Commissions wherever practicable, the line of the watershed has been adopted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 115.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1031.)

Foreign Office, August 7, 1879.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have learned with great satisfaction, from the note addressed to your Excellency by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which a copy is inclosed with your despatch No. 633 of the 19th ultimo, that the Porte has taken measures to repress the corrupt practices prevalent among the Judicial authorities of Damascus, and to punish the principal delinquents for their misdemeanours.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 116.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1032.)

Foreign Office, August 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that the *note verbale* addressed by your Excellency to the Porte, a copy of which accompanies your despatch No. 640 of the 20th ultimo, urging them to employ the services of European officers for organizing the gendarmerie for the Province of Erzeroum, meets with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 117.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1033.)

Foreign Office, August 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I approve your having again called the attention of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to the fact that the balance of the interest on the debt secured by the Egyptian Tribute is still unpaid, as reported in your despatch No. 629 of the 19th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 118.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 40.)

Foreign Office, August 7, 1879.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, and for any observation you may have to offer, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopolis, from which it appears that the Russians have handed over Ichtiman to the troops of the Principality of Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 119.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 516.)

Foreign Office, August 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to ascertain and report to me whether the Austro-Hungarian Government have received a Circular from the Russian Government urging the acceptance of the proposal of the Italian Commissioner on the Montenegrin Boundary Commission, as amended by the Russian Commissioner. I inclose a copy of a Circular, containing a suggestion to this effect, which has been communicated to me by M. Bartholomei. If it has been received at Vienna I should be glad to know whether any answer has been returned to it. Count Károlyi, to whom I have applied, can give me no information on the subject.

There appears to be much complication as regards this question. The Italian suggestion, as given in your Excellency's despatch No. 440 of the 17th ultimo, was that the positions respecting which there was no dispute should be definitively fixed, leaving the intermediate and disputed line recommended by the majority of the Commissioners to be marked out by provisional but visible landmarks, subject to the protest or remarks of the minority.

On the 21st ultimo Captain Sale telegraphs, through Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, that the Commission had accepted an amended form, which was suggested by him, of the Italian proposal, according to which, where points were disputed, the boundary decided by the majority would be marked, not on the ground, but on the topographical sketches made for the purpose, which would include the alternative frontiers proposed by either Turkey or Montenegro, leaving the ultimate decision to the Powers. According to Captain Sale's Report this decision was accepted by the whole Commission, including the Russian Commissioner, but the Russian Circular advocates what it calls a form of the Italian proposal amended by the Russian Commissioner, which, in case of disputed lines of frontier, provided that definitive landmarks should be placed on the line accepted by the majority, the issue being, nevertheless, reserved for the decision of the Powers. M. de Giers, however, pressed on Lord Dufferin the acceptance of the system of provisional landmarks, which is the Italian proposal unamended.

No information upon the subject has been received since the 21st ultimo from Captain Sale.

I should be glad if your Excellency could throw any light upon the causes of the misunderstanding which evidently exists, as the assurance given to me by M. Bartholomei, that the Russian Government has changed its mind, is hardly satisfactory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 120.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7, 10 P.M.)

(No. 50. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.)

Philippopolis, August 6, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 54, the suggestion of the French Commissioner was grounded, I think, principally on apprehensions arising from Bulgarian intrigues against General Vitalis and consequent danger from a refractory militia. These fears have somewhat subsided, as the General, supported by most of the Commissioners, is making better progress, and gradually asserting his position.

But the French Commissioner is also of opinion that the present weak and cowardly Governor-General and his effeminate Secretary-General are quite incapable of working out Organic Statute in the sense intended by most of the Great Powers, and that it may ultimately be necessary to remove both. He argues, and I think properly, that the Organic Statute was intended to be put into execution by a Governor-General who would hold the balance between contending nationalities, not by one who only seeks to conciliate his fellow Bulgarians. The Statute is therefore vitiated by the idea of Aleko. In the event of necessity of removing the latter, the presence of some extraneous force would be necessary, and the French Commissioner advocates, in such a case, a mixed occupation, rather than entry of Turkish troops, which would lead to bloodshed. However, there is at present no imminent necessity for contemplating either course. The Pan-Bulgarians have taken alarm at the recent action of the Commission and at the massing of Turkish troops on the Adrianople frontier. A change in their attitude and in that of the Governor-General is perceptible.

No. 121.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 41 [? 51].) *Philippopolis, August 6, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)
YESTERDAY, in honour of Sultan's birthday, twenty-one guns were fired by militia in presence of Governor-General, whose official residence was illuminated at night, together with several other official houses.
(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 122.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 52.) *Philippopolis, August 6, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)
THE Commission have unanimously adopted motion respecting Article No. 376. [? It] also adhered to my declaration that the opinion of the Commission appointed [? under] Article No. 13, Appendix 1, is only consultative, and that the Commission is responsible to [? Governor-General] simply for the proper delimitation of the electoral districts in conformity with the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin.
(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 123.

Count Montgelas to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

August 7, 1879.
Dear Lord Salisbury,
COUNT ANDRASSY desires me to tell you that the instructions to Count Kalnocky in respect to the Arab Tabia question, identical to those you sent to Lord Dufferin, were dispatched by post instead of by telegraph. This is the reason why Count Kalnocky had not received them at the time Lord Dufferin put himself into communication with him on the subject.
Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. MONTGELAS.

No. 124.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 66.) *Rome, August 7, 1879, 10 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
AN application was made by the Servian Government to the Italian Government last April to agree to suppress Capitulations. No answer has been returned, but late Italian Ministry inclined to opinion that request could not be complied with until position and rights of Italian subjects in Servia had been settled by Treaty, and Count Maffei thinks the present Ministry will adhere to these views.

No. 125.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 214.) *Foreign Office, August 8, 1879, 2 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
IN reply to your telegram No. 508, let me know when the two Berats mentioned have been issued.

No. 126.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 40.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 8, 1879.*
MR. CHARLES ST. JOHN, Her Majesty's Consul at Ragusa, having received instructions to proceed on special service to Prisrend, where he will provisionally occupy the position of British Consul, I have to instruct you to endeavour to obtain every facility to enable him to reach his destination, in order that he may enter upon his duties there with the least possible delay.
I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 127.

Consul Dupuis to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Bengazi, July 19, 1879.*
I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Ali Kenâli Pasha, the new Governor-General, since the raising of this province to the rank of a vilayet in March last, will in a few days start for the interior of the country at the head of the greater part of the military force in Bengazi, with the object, as it is said, of regulating the unequal manner the taxes are levied, based, as I believe they are, on a census taken about one hundred years since.
On the other hand, his Excellency having received repeated and urgent telegraphic instructions to forward to the Treasury upwards of two million piastres, and as he is accompanied by a strong military escort of infantry, cavalry, and a field piece, the object of the expedition is rather believed to enforce the payment of arrears of taxes from the Nomad Arab tribes, and at the point of the bayonet if necessary.
Under these circumstances, and considering the poverty of the country people, who have lost the whole of their crops this year, it is feared harsh measures will be resorted to.
From what I learn, it would seem that there is a growing spirit of discontent among certain Arab tribes against their Turkish rulers, and who, even since the recent events in Turkey, refuse to believe in the existence of the Ottoman Government in Constantinople, so that it is necessary, the Governor tells me, to make a military display of force, to coerce the Arabs into obedience.
The Arabs still regret, and would, I am assured, gladly return to their old system of independent Pashas, or even welcome a European master, if only they could free themselves from the hated Sultan's Government.
A telegram from Constantinople, which appeared in the Malta papers of the 3rd instant, announcing that the Porte contemplated amalgamating the two Regencies of Tripoli and Tunis, although discredited, has nevertheless, with the state of affairs in Egypt, given rise to much speculation here.
I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 128.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 102. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 27, 1879.*
THE anarchy and disorder reported in my despatch No. 91, Political, of the 23rd ultimo, as existing around Ipek, Jacova, and Prisrend, have not abated.
All accounts reaching this from those districts agree in representing affairs as in a most deplorable state, and that the Ottoman authority is powerless.
The important Mahommedan tribe of Hasi is preparing to attack (some assert has already attacked) the Miridite Fandis, established in the neighbourhood of Jacova, on the plea that no Christians must be allowed to inhabit the district of Metoja; and the small Convent of Italian Franciscan missionaries at Zumbi, near Prisrend, has received several warning that the Hasi meditate its destruction.

The ancient alliances existing between many of the North Albania tribes, irrespective of the religion they may each profess, exercise so powerful an influence on their actions that, I am inclined to believe, however much anarchy may extend, it will never develop into a struggle which can be defined as one between Christians and Mahommedans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 129.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 198.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 1, 1879.

THE Greek Government has received official information from their Consuls in Epirus and Thessaly that 32,000 Ottoman troops are present in the latter, 20,000 in the former province, and that large quantities of military stores have been sent to both armies.

It is said that a Greek regiment has been ordered to approach the frontier to watch the movements of troops on the other side.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 130.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch No. 42, and, in reply, to inform you that as soon as my Turkish colleague rejoined the Commission I consulted with him, according to your instructions, on the subject of the road, the use of which was for military purposes, to be conceded to Turkey through the Sandjak of Sofia. The matter has as yet been only partially discussed by the Commission, but will be dealt with in ensuing meetings. I expect that the road fixed on will be that from Tatar-Bazardjik by Samakow, Dubnitza, and Kostendjil, and that when the decision is made it will be communicated to the Prince of Bulgaria, who will be requested to come to an agreement with the Turkish authorities on the formalities to be observed before Ottoman troops and trains of supply are marched along that route.

I presume that this road will never be so used unless the sea should be closed to the Turks, as the route from Salonica by rail to Pristina is so much more convenient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 131.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the twenty-third séance of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission was held at Therapia on the 30th July. The document describing in detail the whole of that part of the frontier of Bulgaria which is concurrent with that of Eastern Roumelia had already been prepared and copies given to the members. It was now brought under discussion. The part of the frontier between the Verbitza Pass and the Black Sea, which had been visited only by a delegation of the Commission, was settled by the whole body, and the entire line fixed by unanimous concurrence, the Russian and German Commissioners, who had reserved their votes in the case of the Khotel Pass, now joining with the rest in sanctioning the whole line. Copies of the trace of the extent of frontier described will be ready in a few days, when the business of the Commission, so far as this part is concerned, will be ended.

It will be remembered that when the decision of the majority on the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier was embodied in a special Act, in December 1878, the Russian

Commissioner refused his assent. He now states that if it were attempted to fix the whole Bulgarian frontier in a single Act he would withhold his signature on the ground that he could not assent to the Roumanian portion. He would thus prevent the final settlement of any part of the line, and an endeavour to obviate this will be made by proposing to embody the agreement come to at the last séance respecting the part which is concurrent with the Eastern Roumelian frontier in a separate special Act also.

The question of substituting "thalweg" for "rive droite" in Article II of the Treaty of Berlin was also discussed at this séance, and the thalweg unanimously voted for. But, the principle being thus settled, a difference of opinion appeared on the question of detail. The Russian Commissioner considered that the Commission should await the completion of a map of the Danube now being made by Russian topographers, and should then send a delegation to that river to mark the thalweg on the plan. I am unable to see what good could arise from such a proceeding. The thalweg shifts its locality from time to time, and no fixed line will permanently represent it: at the same time, it is always perfectly ascertainable, and is well known, at any given moment, to those who navigate it and to the inhabitants on the banks. My view would be, therefore, that the Commission, without reference even to a map, should limit itself to noting the extent of the portion of the Danube which will include the frontier, and to stating that the thalweg is the frontier; and should thereupon leave it to the authorities of the adjacent Principalities to join in laying down on a plan of this portion of the Danube the thalweg as it exists, and in making thereon, from time to time, any alterations which future shiftings of the stream may render necessary. This appears to have been the course followed after the Treaty of Adrianople, when a plan of the river was made by the topographers of the two Powers concerned, and the thalweg marked thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 132.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 352. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, August* 4, 1879.

COUNT MAFFEI, with whom I had a conversation yesterday, informed me that when he passed through Paris he had an interview with M. Waddington, who said that he hoped the "Tornielli policy" would now be given up, and that Italy, which had taken the initiative with France in bringing forward the Greek claims at the Congress of Berlin, would now cordially unite with France in furtherance of the original scheme which had been proposed.

Count Maffei stated that his reply to M. Waddington had been that he had just come from London, and from what he had learnt of the views of the English Government it appeared to him that they were still of the same opinion as to its not being desirable to cede Janina to Greece,—to which he says that M. Waddington replied that if there was unanimity amongst the other Powers, England would come round.

Count Maffei said he gave me this information in the strictest confidence, and I understood that he had not reported the conversation to M. Cairoli. Count Maffei, however, is evidently of opinion that there is not much chance of M. Cairoli bringing forward what is now known as the "Italian line."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 133.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 843.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 8, 1879.

I ASKED M. Waddington this afternoon what view he took of the Circular of M. Boerescu on the Jewish question, a copy of which was sent by me to your Lordship in my despatch No. 822 of the 4th instant.

M. Waddington answered that the Circular had made a very unfavourable

impression upon him, and that the proposals it contained appeared to him to be wholly unacceptable. They fell in fact very far short of what had been agreed to at Berlin by M. Stourdza, the Roumanian Minister of Finance.

M. Waddington went on to say that M. Stourdza had agreed that five categories of Jews should be immediately emancipated, while M. Boeresco appeared to propose that only individual naturalizations should be granted. The French Government had always insisted that there should be categories, the falling within which should entitle Jews, *ipso facto*, to the privileges of citizenship; and M. Waddington was not at all prepared to yield on this point.

Again, M. Stourdza had agreed at Berlin that the period of residence requisite to enable a Jew to be naturalized should be reduced from ten years to two years, but this also appeared to be ignored in the Circular.

Things looked in fact as if the Roumanians were playing a double game. But, however this might be, the French Government would accept the terms agreed upon by M. Stourdza at Berlin, and would reject the Circular of M. Boeresco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 134.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 8, 1879.

NO Russian Circular has been communicated to Austrian Government about Montenegrin Frontier Commission, and they have no official or precise knowledge of Russian amendment to Italian proposal.

Austrian Commissioner, in common with all his colleagues except Russian and Montenegrin, accepted the Italian proposal as amended by Sale, and the question was therefore regarded as settled, for Count Andrassy insists on importance of upholding the principle of letting all such questions be decided by the vote of the majority of the Commission.

It seems that Russian Government propose that the marks of the disputed parts of the frontier, whether on the map or on the ground, shall be provisional till definitively decided by the Powers.

Count Andrassy decidedly objects to this, and says marks must be provisional till Commission has completed the rest of the work, after which it must decide finally and by majority upon the disputed points. He does not think question can ever be settled in another manner, as it is only Commissioners on the spot, and not their Governments, who are competent to deal with it.

No. 135.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 9, 10·30 A.M.)

(No. 600.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 8, 1879.

CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT telegraphs that news has reached Useup authorities 610 (*sic*) band of thirty Bulgarians attacked and fired shots on Major Ardagh and his companions at Carli Balkan Jani Sarra Bachira, and Commission had consequently suspended work. Mushir Safvet Pasha has telegraphed to Useup military authorities to afford Major Ardagh and party every assistance and protection.

No. 136.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 9, 3·30 P.M.)

Berlin, August 9, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me to-day that an application has been received from the Servian Government relative to the abolition of the Capitulations. No notice has yet been

taken of it, and the German Government do not intend to move in the matter at present, nor would they consent to abolition until they knew how it was proposed to replace the Capitulations, and were satisfied that the change would not be prejudicial.

No. 137.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 9, 1879.

M. DE BOERESCO having asked Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs' opinion about propriety of his going to St. Petersburgh before Berlin, was strongly advised by his Excellency not to go there at all, but in any case to go in the first instance to Berlin. Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs says that he told Roumanian Minister that his business was with Governments which had not yet recognized Roumania, and that he should not waste time with those which had. At the same time, he had told him that he was strongly in favour of the maintenance of the proposed categories, and that it must not be supposed that because Austria had recognized independence of the Principalities that she separated herself in the slightest degree from the other Powers in the question of religious equality.

No. 138.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 53. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August* 9, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 6th instant No. 51, the Director of Finance reproved the Governor-General at a Council in strong terms for having used violent and abusive language in Council respectiong the first Turkish Commissioner, whom his Excellency said he did not recognise.

High words having ensued, the Finance Director left the Council and has ever since remained away.

At the instance of his Bulgarian colleagues, who urge that, in view of imbecility of Governor-General, it is not desirable to increase his popularity by making the incident known, M. Schmidt has agreed to return to the Council provided that Governor-General will express his regret and invite him to attend again. This will probably be done.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 139.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 9, 1879, 5·15 P.M.

GIERS has just come to me with new trace of southern portion of Asiatic frontier. This trace corresponds pretty accurately with Clarke's, except that shortly before reaching the parallel of Kara it turns off from the crest, and descends in south-westerly direction towards the river, reaching the parallel of Kara about half a verst to the west of Clarke's point. Of this map I shall be able to send you a copy on Monday.

Giers now tells me that the former Russian trace, of which I sent your Lordship a copy, was laid down from description! Giers had no knowledge of Protocols 2 and 3 of the Conference of the Asiatic Commission at Constantinople of the 19th and 22nd May, nor of the nature of the issues raised at them. At last, however, I have enabled him to understand points in issue; but when I proposed to him that he and I should at once proceed to settle the controversy, he said that really he could not, that he had not the power. He was also very much disturbed by a telegram he had received from Constantinople, to the effect that he had admitted

Clarke's right to determine the point west of Kara. On this I showed him my telegram to you, 123, with which he declared himself perfectly satisfied.

He has asked me to see him again on Monday, when he will have further studied the question, and when I hope we shall settle it.

No. 140.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 602.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 10, 1879.

SULTAN, with whom I spoke again yesterday about reforms, seems determined to put them into execution. His Iradé is for the appointment of Finance Inspectors for the provinces. French Ambassador and I have been asked to recommend persons. I have proposed Horace Guarracino, who has very ably and honestly administered the Compassionate Fund, Mr. [?] and Edmund Calvert, who appears disposed to accept place if offered to him.

No. 141.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 603.)
(Telegraphic) *Therapia, August* 10, 1879.

CAPTAIN ARDAGH telegraphs that he is getting on well, and hopes soon to finish his work. It is to be presumed, therefore, that report mentioned in my telegram No. 600 is exaggerated or unfounded.

No. 142.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 605. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 10, 1879.

FRENCH Ambassador said to me in course of conversation to-day that his personal opinion was strongly against giving Janina to Greece, and that he did not despair of bringing M. Waddington round to it; but if that place remained to Turkey she must give a very considerable territorial compensation to Greece. It appears to me that this is altogether abandoning the idea of a rectification of the frontiers upon which the suggestion of the Signatory Powers purported to be based, and making question one of territorial cessions to Greece. The effect of giving the Pass of Mezzovo to Greece, as suggested to me by the French Ambassador, deserves serious consideration. Porte would probably not agree to it, as it is the principal pass into Albania and commands Janina.

No. 143.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 10, 1879.

HER Majesty's Commissioner has asked me to inform your Lordship that the Ottoman Commissioner has accepted the whole Prepolac line.

No. 144.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 10, 1879, 7·15 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 30, should proposal to include abolition of Capitulations in the Commercial Treaty be favourably entertained, I would suggest an additional Article or Protocol reserving the right of Her Majesty's Government to maintain in Servia existing Capitulations in regard to foreign Powers as long as latter have not abolished them.

No. 145.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 526.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1879.

I HAVE requested your Excellency by telegraph to inform M. Boerescu, if he has not left Vienna, that I shall probably have left London by the 12th instant, which is, I understand, the earliest date on which his arrival in England can be expected. I have begged you to tell him that I shall much regret not to see him, but that the proposals of which I understand he is the bearer are so unsatisfactory that I think a visit to England would not in any case produce any result which would compensate him for the trouble of the journey.

I have requested you, if he should have left Vienna before the receipt of my telegram, to ask Sir J. Walsham to convey my message to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 146.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 416.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1879.

YOUR Excellency will have learnt, from the telegram which I have to-day addressed to you, that Her Majesty's Government are uncertain as to the wishes of the Russian Government with regard to the settlement of the disputed points on the Montenegrin frontier. It would appear that the three following plans are under discussion by the Boundary Commission:—

The Italian Delegate proposed that on the disputed portions of the frontier the line adopted by the majority of the Commission shall be marked on the ground by temporary but visible landmarks, and that their settlement shall be referred to the Cabinets of the Powers interested. As an amendment to this plan the Russian Commissioner proposed that the landmarks should be definitive in their character, but that the decision with regard to them should still be left to the Powers. On the other hand, the English Delegate suggested, as an amendment to both the above proposals, that the marks should not be made on the ground at all, but on a plan specially drawn for the purpose, and appearing in a Protocol. This amendment was accepted by all the members of the Commission, including the Russian Delegate.

Your Excellency will remember having reported to me that M. de Giers has urged on you the advisability of adopting the plan of provisional landmarks, which is, in fact, simply the proposal of the Italian Commissioner, whilst M. Bartholomei has communicated to me a document phrased like a Circular (which has not, however, been communicated to the Austrian Government), urging the adoption of the Italian proposal as amended by the Russian Delegate.

Thus the Russian authorities in London, at St. Petersburgh, and at Scutari, each support a different one of the three plans now before the Boundary Commission, and it is on the question as to which of these three plans the Russian Government really advocate that Her Majesty's Government would be glad of some explanation.

Her Majesty's Government have endeavoured to induce the Turkish Government to accept the line of frontier laid down by the majority of the Commissioners without its further reference to the Powers, with the reservation that that majority can affirm

that they are observing the letter of the Treaty of Berlin, and they are still of opinion that this would be the simplest solution of the difficulty. At the same time, I have reason to believe that the Austrian Government recommends the adoption of the line fixed by the majority without any such reservation.

Your Excellency will point out to M. de Giers the confusion which appears to exist, and you will request him to explain to you clearly the views of the Russian Government on the points in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 147.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1879, 11·15 P.M.

IF Roumanian has not left, tell him I understand he cannot be here before 18th, and by that time I shall probably be away. I much regret not to see him, but the proposals he brings are so unsatisfactory that I think a visit to England would in any case not produce any result which would repay him for his trouble.

If he has left Vienna, repeat this to Berlin.

No. 148.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1879, *midnight.*

THE Montenegrin Boundary question seems to be in some confusion. Italians proposed that, on disputed portions of frontier, the majority line should be marked on the ground by temporary but visible landmarks, and then issue should be referred to the Cabinets. Russians proposed, as amendment, that the landmarks should be definitive in their character, but the issue still referred to Cabinets. English Delegate proposed amendment that marks should not be on ground at all, but on a plan specially drawn for the purpose and protocolled. To this the whole Commission, including Russian, agreed. M. de Giers urged on you the adoption of provisional landmarks, which is the Italian plan pure and simple. Chargé d'Affaires brought me a document phrased like a Circular urging the Italian plan as amended by the Russians, but this Circular has never been sent to Austria. There is some difficulty in knowing what the Russians mean. The three Russian authorities at St. Petersburgh, London, and Scutari each support a different one of the three plans before the Commission.

We have urged on the Turks to accept the majority principle simply, without any reference to Cabinets, wherever majority can say it is observing the letter of the Treaty; and this still seems to me the simplest solution. The Austrians, I believe, support majority principle without that reservation.

No. 149.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 22. Political. Confidential.)
Erzeroum, July 25, 1879.

My Lord,

AS the Imperial Commissioners of Reform for the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Van have now submitted to the Porte their first progress Report, a translation of which I inclose, it appears a favourable opportunity to make a few general remarks on the work and prospects of the Commission. I regret to have to report that, although I have seen no reason to change my opinion as to the uprightness and integrity of the Imperial Commissioners, yet the more I see of the working of the Commission, the less hopeful appears the prospect of the introduction of early and thorough reforms.

Although the Commissioners have not favoured me with a copy of the instructions they received from the Sublime Porte, yet, from what they have themselves told me on various occasions, and from other reliable sources, I know very well what these

instructions are, and when I quote an instruction, your Lordship may rely on its being authentic.

The general tenour of the instructions, although, at first sight, giving large powers to the Commissioners, in reality, in many instances, reduce those powers absolutely to nothing, by the proviso that, wherever an increased expenditure will have to be incurred, reference must be made to, and permission obtained from, the Sublime Porte before any action can be taken.

This proviso at once precludes any steps being taken, without special sanction from the Porte, to organize a gendarmerie, or to reorganize the general administration of the country, neither of which can be done without a largely increased expenditure.

The powers of the Commissioners have, moreover, been very seriously curtailed by telegraphic instructions received from the Porte since the arrival of the Commission here; to such an extent has this been the case, as I will presently show, that it appears to me the Commissioners are almost reduced to the position of simple inspectors of grievances, without the powers to make their good intentions of any practical avail.

I now proceed to specify some instances where subsequent instructions have completely overridden the originally large powers given to the Commission:—

1 (*3* and *4*)*. The Commissioners were originally given authority to select the different Vice-Presidents and members for the new Criminal and Civil Courts. This authority has now been transferred to the Vali Pasha, who has made the necessary selections, without even consulting the Imperial Commissioners.

2 (*4*). The Commissioners were originally authorized to change the old members of the Administrative Council of the vilayet and to replace them by others, who were to be elected under the newly issued regulations. This order has been cancelled, and the Vali Pasha has received instructions to superintend the new elections, which are to be carried out under the old regulations, *i. e.*, the nominations will practically lie in the hands of the old corrupt provincial Medjlisses, and the result will be that the former corrupt members will be again returned.

3. The Commissioners were originally authorized to dismiss from their posts all incompetent and corrupt functionaries in the vilayet below the grade of Mutessarif (Lieutenant-Governor). This order has apparently been counter-ordered, as I learn that, within the last few days, the Vali Pasha has, without consultation with the Commissioners, dismissed from their posts several Kaimakams, and is replacing them by his own nominees.

4. The Commissioners were directed (*6*), in concurrence with the Vali, to study the different methods of collecting taxes and contributions, and to carry out any improvements agreed upon which were permissible by the present laws; other projects which involved fundamental change in the laws were to be referred to Constantinople.

The Porte has recently, without consulting the Commissioners, telegraphed to the Vali Pasha to sell this year's tithes by auction, in the usual manner. This proceeding has naturally given great offence to the Commissioners.

I think I have written sufficient to prove to your Lordship that recent orders from Constantinople would appear to have reduced the powers of the Commissioners almost to an irreducible minimum.

It now remains to be shown what amount of alacrity is displayed by the Constantinople authorities in complying with the reasonable demands of the Commission.

The following proposals have been submitted to Constantinople for approval, the first on the list having been sent from here in the end of May:—

(1.) Proposal for opening postal and direct telegraphic communication between Erzeroum and Van, and direct postal communication between Erzeroum, Erzingian, and Kharput.

No answer received.

(2.) Proposals that the village communities be allowed to deduct from the Virgoo now due the sums of money due to them by the Government on account of supplies provided to the army during the war.

No answer received.

(3.) Proposals that the latest date for accepting caimé (at the rate of 400 piastres per lira), in payment of ancient debts due to the Government, be prolonged.

A favourable answer has been received, directing that caimé be accepted for a further period of five months from 1st July.

* Figures in *italic* refer to paragraphs in Major Trotter's Separate and Very Confidential despatch of July 12, 1879.

(4.) Proposal that members of the Idareh Medjliss should be changed, and new members be elected.

Orders have been given to the Vali Pasha to have new members elected on the ancient régime.

(5.) A good deal of telegraphic communication on the subject of Dervish Pasha and the Dersimlis has resulted in Dervish Pasha getting *carte blanche* to do what he pleases.

(6.) Two or three other proposals of an important nature have remained unanswered.

(7.) A telegraphic answer was received this day to the proposals for a new gendarmerie, stating that, although the project was in very many respects an admirable one, yet it had one fatal defect which prevented the Council of Ministers from adopting it, viz., that it entailed a large increase of expenditure. It was pointed out that the Diarbekir Reform Commissioners had proposed a scheme for that vilayet by which an efficient gendarmerie was to be introduced without increased expenditure, the Erzeroum Commissioners were to consult the Diarbekir Commissioners, and at once despatch an amended scheme to the Porte.

Commissioners have very rightly replied by telegraph that they are unable to modify their project in the manner desired, and have, I believe, declined to consult the Diarbekir Commissioners on the subject.

I have on this subject dispatched this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador the following cypher telegram:—

"My despatch 51. Turkish Ministers refuse sanction to police project on account of high expenditure. Commissioners refuse to modify project. Please urge Turkish Government to sanction scheme, as reforms are impossible without efficient gendarmerie."

I have now shown, I think effectually, that the Commissioners are not supported as they ought to be by the Turkish Government. Another matter that interferes sadly with the progress of the reform is the absence of cordial co-operation between the Vali Pasha and the Commissioners. I believe this to be caused simply by jealousy. The Vali, Phosphor Mustafa Pasha, ex-Minister of War, has no idea of playing second fiddle to Yusuf Pasha, who, as ex-Minister of Finance, thinks himself a better man than Mustafa, so, instead of putting their shoulders together and working for the country's good, each one plods on his way independently of the other, and often at cross purposes.

The want of support from Constantinople, together with the very lukewarm aid given by the Vali, has had the very perceptible effect of cooling down the energy and ardour with which the Commissioners commenced their labours. They are evidently much disgusted, and are apparently now rather bent on shirking their work, at least, that is the opinion I regret to have formed during the past week. Serkis Effendi, the second Commissioner, has been laid up for some days by illness, and little or no work appears to be got through in his absence.

The actual practical result of the labours of the Commission hitherto has, in addition to some prison reforms, been the imprisonment, preliminary to trial, of one of the least influential of Kieghi Beys, Unu Agha, of Boran, and the summoning to Erzeroum of several others, including Ismail Bey, of Temran, and other noted and well-known villains. A preliminary investigation into their misdeeds is now being undertaken by the Commissioners personally, who inform me that, should the charges against them be substantiated, they will send them for trial in accordance with their instructions (*g*) to the Erzeroum Court of First Instance, where the case will be watched by a Procureur-Général on the part of the Commissioners, who will by that time have left Erzeroum for the provinces, so that there is a great probability of the culprit ultimately escaping through bribery, in which case the last state of Geghi will be worse than its first.

Fortunately, the Commissioners have themselves to take the provinces of Geghi in their inspection tour, and will probably leave this in six weeks' time for the purpose. I shall, therefore, have further opportunities of urging the absolute necessity for the punishment or expatriation of the principal of the offending Beys.

The Council for Reforms, called together under the instructions from the Porte[a] (*f*), have now before them two sets of proposals, one drawn up by the Armenian community and one drawn up by the Mahommedan members of the Council.

I have been promised copies of both documents, and will forward translations by the earliest opportunity. I have in a previous despatch alluded to some of the Armenian proposals, and I may add that some of those made by the Mahommedans

[a] *Vide* postscript to my despatch No. 53 to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

are conceived in a very liberal spirit. *Inter alia*, they strongly urge the necessity of improved means of education, and offer to provide funds from the local vakouf property for the purpose of getting qualified instructors in agriculture and sciences from Constantinople. They also recommend the formation of a new Moslem and Christian local militia in addition to the gendarmerie.

I fear this despatch will have to leave Erzeroum without the promised inclosure, for even if I get the document to-morrow morning, as promised, it will, I fear, be too late for a translation to be made in time for the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Acting Vice-Consul Bogajian to Major Trotter.

(Telegraphic.) *Diarbekir, July* 25, 1879.

FINDING Armenian Bishop Philippos' conduct will cause danger to Christians, the Patriarchate delegates recommended his removal. Patriarch dismissed him. Encouraged by Philippos' attitude, a large mob attacked delegates with sticks and injured them. Government suppressed this energetically by force. Several from the mob and troops wounded. Fearing graver consequences, authorities send (*sic*) Philippos away. Patriarch, changing his mind, intends Philippos to return. It is feared his coming may cause great troubles. Please acquaint Ambassador, in order that he may communicate with Porte and Patriarch.

No. 150.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 5, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the 24th séance of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission was held at Therapia on the 2nd August, with the following results:—

The western extremity of the frontier, from Cadir Tepe to the frontier of Servia, visited lately by a delegation of the Commission, was discussed, and the following trace was adopted:

From Cadir Tepe to the valley of the Struma no difficulty exists in following the terms of the Treaty of Berlin. A ravine divides entirely the village of Jelesnitza from the one next south of it, and the frontier ascends there. But, if "la ligne la plus courte" were followed from thence, the heads of two or three small valleys, constituting what the Treaty appears to have indicated by the "bassin de la Suha Réka," would have been cut across. It was, therefore, agreed to follow the line of watershed, which runs in a curve about 2 miles north of the shortest line to the summit of the hill named in the Austrian map Mont Gitka, but which has really another name, Mont Gitka being at a considerable distance.

From the so-called Mont Gitka the line follows the watershed which approximates to the ancient frontier of the sandjak, and which is very erroneously represented on the Austrian map. After crossing the road from Kostendjil to Egri-Palanka, it still follows the line of watershed, diverging from the frontier-line, as marked on the Austrian map, by making a loop to the westward of about 2 miles in depth. After including the basin of the Lepnica (extended in the Austrian map some 10 miles too far to the westward) it reaches Mont Crni Vrh by the crest of the Babina-Palona.

Thus the whole of the line, with the delimitation of which the Commission has been charged in the present year, from the Black Sea to Crni Vrh, has been unanimously fixed and described.

The two gaps left in the western portion of the Russian map are:—

1. The chain of the Rhodope from Cadir Tepe to the point where the frontier leaves the crest to descend to the valley of the Struma; and

2. From the middle of the crest of Karvena Jarbuka to the valley of the Lopnica.

In the first portion, as stated in a former despatch, the frontier-line, concurrent with the watershed, lies along a mountain crest which for many months is covered

deeply with snow, which is crossed by no roads, and is uninhabited. Should, therefore, the Russian map of this part be still unfinished when the work of the Commission is otherwise brought to a close, we may not consider it necessary to await its completion.

The second portion was that in which it was found so difficult and inexpedient to follow the old frontier of the sandjak, and where a new trace has been adopted in a populous district, and this is the part on which the topographical party sent by me is now engaged. I learnt by telegram from Uskup that they quitted that place on the 1st August, and no doubt reached the frontier, at latest, next day, arriving several days sooner than if they had gone by Philippopolis and Samakow. For this saving of time they were in a great measure indebted to the promptitude of Captain Pusey, in whose ship, Her Majesty's ship "Bittern," they were conveyed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 151.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 485.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 7, 1879.

M. BOERESCO, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has arrived here on his way to the different capitals, called upon me this afternoon.

He says that he proposes to go first to Berlin, his chief object being to endeavour to induce the German Government not to insist upon that part of M. Stourdza's project for the emancipation of the Jews which provided for the removal of the disabilities of all persons comprised within certain stated categories.

The prevailing public opinion, he said, would render it impossible to pass such a law, but the Government hoped that they would get the Chamber to adopt one that would sanction the rights of citizenship being granted to at least an equal number of Jews by means of a law to which should be annexed a nominal list of the persons to be benefited, whose qualifications would be those mentioned in the categories of M. Stourdza's project.

I observed that if the Chamber, which he said would reject the project of emancipation by categories, was ready to agree to the proposal he had just sketched, it would be because they believed that it would restrict the numbers who would have come under the former.

He admitted this is what the Chamber would believe; but he was convinced that the calculation would be found erroneous, as the Government were determined to emancipate as large a number as possible of the Jews who possess the qualifications for becoming Roumanian subjects with the enjoyment of all rights attached to the same.

He trusts Her Majesty's Government will take into consideration the real difficulties of the Roumanian Government, in dealing with this question, and will be disposed to be satisfied with their proposal, which goes to the utmost limits of what they will be able to carry through the Chambers.

M. Boeresco goes from here to Berlin, and, before proceeding to Paris and London, he proposes to go to St. Petersburgh on a purely complimentary mission, there being, he says, nothing for him to do there.

As the interval before the reassembling of the Chamber is very short, it is difficult to feel satisfied of there not being some additional reason for his making a journey that takes him so much out of his way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 152.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 486.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 7, 1879.

WHEN M. de Boeresco spoke of the impossibility of granting complete equality to the Roumanian Jews, I asked him what it was proposed to do with regard to the non-Christian populations of the Dobrudscha.

He said that upon that point the Government had come to the decision that when the Dobrudscha was incorporated into the Principality all the former inhabitants are to be declared Roumanian subjects, possessed of full civil and political rights.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 153.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 15. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Corfu, August 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Confidential Report received by last mail from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura.

2. The allusion in the Report to Colonel Grivas' cherished project of establishing a military dictatorship affords matter for serious reflection. Grivas is the most capable officer in the Greek army, and at the same time the most popular. As a political leader he has no rival in Western Greece, now that Deligiorgis is no more; so that, should any armed irruption into Turkish territory enter into his plans, he would, to a certainty, be followed by the Acarnanians to a man, and also, I have no doubt, by the Leucadians, into whose good graces he has latterly contrived to work himself.

3. Indeed, in Santa Maura, Grivas may now be said to reign supreme; for, as we are informed by telegram only two days ago, his most formidable political competitor in that island, Dr. A. Valaoriti, the "national poet," and President of the anti-Turkish "Heteria," was carried off suddenly by an attack of heart disease; and as this sad event leaves Grivas more thoroughly master of the position, it becomes of so much the more importance to watch his movements narrowly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Santa Maura, August 2, 1879.

THE circumstances attending the dissolution of the Chamber have been criticized here in a manner anything but flattering to the Government of M. Comnondouros, while in certain articles the dissolution itself is regarded as a *coup d'état*.

2. The acceptance by the King of Colonel Grivas' resignation is another event which has not failed to cause a certain amount of sensation in the place, the more so as the Colonel had made the necessary arrangements to start on his intended visit to Lepenus on Wednesday last (30th ultimo).

It would appear from the reports in circulation that the Colonel having been urgently summoned by M. Comnondouros to Athens on the eve of the meeting of the Chamber, the Colonel tendered his resignation, in hopes, it would seem, that it would not have been accepted. Indeed, he was left without reply till after the dissolution of the Chamber, as only on Monday last (28th ultimo) he was officially informed that the King had accepted his resignation.

The Colonel's friends say that he was at variance with the Minister of Finance, who refused to allow any part of the new loan to go towards the maintenance of the camp. But according to another version an intrigue was set on foot to get rid of him, as it was suspected he would have used his official influence while in power towards accomplishing his plan of bringing into the Chamber a majority consisting of his partizans in the army.

3. It is now rumoured here that the camp will be broken up shortly, owing to financial considerations, and that some of the troops will return to Santa Maura. By a Royal Decree published here the other day, all the men whose six months' military service are expiring are allowed to return to their homes. Therefore the force at Lepenus—where, by-the-bye, it had been proposed in the outset to assemble an army of 15,000 men, but in reality no more than 6,000 or 6,500 are said to have ever been collected—will now be reduced considerably.

4. While the formation of thecamp had been regarded here as a measure calculated to strengthen the hands of Greece in the frontier negotiations, and to threaten Turkey, it is now admitted on all hands that the "demonstration" has answered neither purpose; but it has had one serious result, namely, that the Turks lost no time in assembling considerable forces in the bordering provinces to meet any emergency. To all appearance more moderate ideas prevail at the present moment in this part of Greece. No doubt the considerable force assembled by the Turks along the frontier, coupled with the fact that the financial situation in Greece is not very promising, has acted as a powerful antidote to the excitement which prevailed here a short time ago. All things considered, I am disposed to think there is no immediate danger of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 154.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 395. Confidential.)
Berlin, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

WHEN I saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning he said he understood that M. Boerescо, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, was to arrive here to-day, but he had not yet heard of his having come.

On my asking Herr von Radowitz whether he was aware of the proposal which M. Boerescо intended to make in the hope of inducing the German Government not to insist on the system of categories in connection with the proposed immediate emancipation of certain classes of Jews, he told me that the German Ambassador at Vienna had written to him on the subject.

M. de Radowitz seemed to be of opinion that the object of substituting a nominal list of persons to be emancipated for the categories was probably to insure the exclusion from this privilege of some particular individuals whose admission to the rights of citizenship might interfere with private interests; and although, until he had seen M. Boerescо, he could not pretend to say whether the supposition was correct, still he was inclined to think that if possible the system of categories should be maintained. Emancipation, according to a nominal list, would, he felt, open the door to personal intrigue, and the efforts of the Powers might then in a great measure be paralyzed.

His Excellency promised to let me know the result of his interview with the Roumanian Minister. I learned from M. de Radowitz that Count Andrassy had given M. Boerescо clearly to understand that he was acting in perfect accord with the Powers interested, and should continue to do so to the end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 155.

New Roumanian Propósals communicated by M. Boërescо at Berlin, August 9.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Baron von den Brincken, August* 11.)

LA distinction de croyances religieuses ne constituera pour personne en Roumanie un obstacle à l'acquisition et à la jouissance des droits civils et politiques.

Tout étranger, à quelque religion qu'il appartienne, pourra obtenir la qualité de citoyen Roumain, par une loi spéciale et individuelle, après un stage de dix ans et conformément à la loi sur la naturalisation. Cette loi déterminera les cas d'exemption de stage.

Mais il sera inscrit dans la Constitution que ceux qui sont nés et élevés en Roumanie jusqu'à leur majorité, et qui n'auraient jamais joui d'une protection étrangère, pourront obtenir la naturalisation avec dispense de stage.

Les habitants qui se trouvaient dans la Dobroudja comme sujets Ottomans, au moment de l'annexion de cette province à la Roumanie, seront considérés comme Roumains et traités sur le pied de la plus parfaite égalité, sans distinction d'origine ou de religion.

Les restrictions, en ce qui concerne le droit des étrangers d'acquérir des propriétés rurales, ne seront point applicables à la Dobroudja.

Le droit d'acquérir des propriétés rurales en Roumanie sera rattaché aux droits politiques, en respectant toutefois les droits des étrangers qui auraient acquis de ses biens, en vertu de lois antérieures.

Par un effet rétroactif de la loi sur la révision de l'Article 7, il sera dit dans cette loi que ceux des Israélites actuellement sujets Roumains, qui auraient en leur faveur la présomption de l'assimilation, à la suite de différentes qualités qu'ils posséderaient, seront inscrits sur des listes, indiquant leurs noms et leurs qualités, votés et reconnus comme citoyens Roumains, en même temps que la loi sur la révision de l'Article 7.

No. 156.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 11, 11 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, August 10, 1879, 2 P.M.

I HAVE been asked by Captain Sale to communicate following:—

"I leave Scutari for Podgoritza to-day. Please send future telegrams in Cypher N."

No. 157.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 11, 4·5 P.M.)

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, August 11, 1879, 3·12 P.M.

ROUMANIAN having left Vienna, your telegram of yesterday has been repeated to Berlin.

No. 158.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 217.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, August 11, 1879, 5·15 P.M.

YOUR results with respect to Ismail Pasha's return to Egypt very satisfactory.

Have you heard anything more of appointment of Baker Pasha? The Finance Inspectors will be decidedly useful; but Baker's nomination would be of enormous value.

No. 159.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1050.)
Foreign Office, August 11, 1879.

Sir,

I INFORMED your Excellency to-day by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government considered the result of your action with reference to the return of Ismail Pasha to Egypt highly satisfactory, and I inquired whether anything more concerning Baker Pasha's appointment had come to your knowledge.

I likewise stated that the Finance Inspectors would certainly be useful, but that in my opinion it would be of enormous value to obtain the nomination of Baker Pasha to the post which has been suggested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 160.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 76.) *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of your recommendation to M. Ristich, as reported in your despatch No. 205 of the 21st ultimo, that no difficulties should be raised by the Servian Government to allowing M. Nicolaides, who has been nominated by the Porte as Turkish Consul-General at Nisch, to proceed to his future post in an unofficial capacity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 161.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 77.) *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that I approve your having called the attention of M. Ristich to the alleged retention by the Servian troops, as reported in your despatch No. 209 of the 23rd ultimo, of a portion of territory which rightfully belongs to Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 162.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Anderson, R.E.

(No. 12.) *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 16 of the 2nd ultimo, with its inclosures, and to express to you the satisfaction with which I have learned the progress which has been made in their operations by the Commission of which you are a member.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 163.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 18, Political.) *Erzeroum, July* 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that it has been brought to my notice that the latest Armenian newspapers of Constantinople display great irritation at the fact that in the recent Gazette of my appointment as Consul, I was designated Consul of Kurdistan, including the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Diarbekir, Kharput, Moosh, and Van.

I have been able to obtain possession of only one such newspaper, the "Terdjomani Efkiar," No. 583, of the $\frac{1}{13}$th June. This newspaper is published in the Turkish language, in the Armenian character, and it has, I am informed, a large circulation in those provinces of Asia Minor where the Turkish language is generally used by the Armenians.

I beg to inclose herewith a literal translation of this somewhat lengthy article, which may perhaps repay your Lordship's perusal. It contains a violent attack against some members of Her Majesty's Government, but as the question discussed has apparently given rise to much acrimonious feeling amongst the Armenian journals of Constantinople, it is I think desirable that your Lordship should be put in possession of the opinion set forth, which are doubtless those of a large class of Armenians.

I am aware that the Consulate which I at present have the honour of holding, has

for very many years past been designated by Her Majesty's Government, somewhat erroneously I am constrained to admit, as that of Kurdistan, and that your Lordship has merely followed an ancient precedent in gazetting me as Consul of Kurdistan.

A suggestion is made in the inclosed article, not perhaps an unreasonable one, that the Consulate should be designated as that of Armenia and Kurdistan.

There is no doubt that it is very desirable that in the reforms which it is proposed to introduce into Asiatic Turkey, Her Majesty's Government should have the cordial co-operation of the Armenians, not only in the provinces where I have jurisdiction, but also generally throughout the Empire, and it is, therefore, a point worthy of your Lordship's consideration whether it might not be worth while to make some such concession to the Armenians on a point on which it is evident they are extremely sensitive.

I cannot, however, admit the accuracy of the statistics shown in the inclosure, which are the same, I understand, as were submitted to the Congress at Berlin. Without entering into details, I may state that, according to official statements, the relative number of male Christians and Moslems in the provinces of Erzeroum and Van are as follows:—

	Moslems.	Non-Moslems.
Erzeroum	197,768	55,043
Van	126,208	97,555*

* Including at least 20,000 Nestorians.

while Mr. Taylor, for many years Consul in these provinces, estimated the total population of the vilayets now under my Consular jurisdiction as follows, viz., in the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, Diarbekir, and Kharput:—

Turks	442,500
Kurds	548,000
Kizilbash Moslems }	209,500
Christians	649,000

To the first, or official Turkish estimate, I have good reason to suppose that an addition of about 40 per cent. to the number of Christians would give a result approximating to the truth.

There is no doubt whatever that the Armenians in these provinces are anxious to take a more active part in public affairs than has hitherto been allowed to them. I have gathered from the events of the last few days (which will be described to your Lordship in a separate despatch) that the Armenian of to-day is a very different individual to what he was before the war. He is much bolder and less submissive, and is bent apparently on securing rights and privileges which have hitherto often very unfairly been denied him. On this point it is sufficient to remark that I know of no single Christian Armenian executive official in either the Erzeroum or the Diarbekir Vilayets.

I believe that if the title of this Consulate were transformed into Consulate of Turkish Armenia and Kurdistan, the same would create a very favourable impression amongst the whole of the Armenian race.

I have used the expression Turkish Armenia, as I learn from the Russian Consul-General that His Majesty the Emperor of Russia claims as one of his titles that of "Commander of Armenia."

Although the expression "Turkish Armenia and Kurdistan" would doubtless be more correct than that of Kurdistan simply, I am aware that its adoption is for obvious reasons open to objection. Should your Lordship think the expression inadmissible, I would venture to suggest Consul for the Eastern Provinces of Asiatic Turkey, or perhaps a more practical suggestion still would be to divide the whole of Colonel Wilson's jurisdiction and my own into the Consular Districts of Eastern and Western Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 164.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 21. Political.)

Erzeroum, July 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Captain Clayton, R.A., Her Majesty's Vice-Consul for Van, arrived here on Monday, the 7th instant, and will leave on Saturday, the 26th instant, for Van.

As Captain Clayton is new, both to the country and to the Consular Service, I thought it desirable in the interests of the public service that he should remain here a few weeks before proceeding to his charge.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the letter of instructions I have this day addressed to Captain Clayton, which I trust will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Major Trotter to Captain Clayton.

(Confidential.)

Erzeroum, July 24, 1879.

Sir,

THE Marquis of Salisbury, in his despatch No. 6 of the 17th May, 1879, informed me that you had been selected to be Vice-Consul in Kurdistan, under my orders, and that I was at liberty to employ you as I might consider best for the public service.

It appears that the Sublime Porte raised difficulties about granting you a general exequatur for the whole of Kurdistan, and that you have been provided by Her Majesty's Ambassador with a berat available only for the province of Van. This renders it a *sine qua non* that for the present the sphere of your labours must lie in the Vilayet of Van.

Lord Salisbury has already informed you that among your most important functions will be that of inquiring into, and reporting upon, existing abuses in administration, and of assisting the Porte in carrying into effect the reforms which it is pledged to undertake.

We have now been resident under the same roof for some three weeks, and you are in possession of my views generally, as to the subject of your future labours. Before being able to find or apply a remedy it is necessary to study the actual state of the country, and this can only be done by personal inspection, and contact with all classes of its inhabitants. I will not hamper you in any way by giving you detailed instructions for your guidance, but will leave it to you to make the most of your time and opportunities.

As I shall very probably myself visit in the autumn, in company with the Imperial Commissioners, the northern and north-eastern portions of the Province of Van, it appears to be desirable that you should proceed to Van, viâ Moosh and Bitlis, which towns are important centres where it would be desirable to make a stay of some days. While at Moosh I would particularly call your attention to the study of the question of the proposed settlement there of Mussulman refugees; an early report on this subject would be desirable.

I would also wish to impress on you the great importance of obtaining as accurate statistics as possible as to the absolute and relative numbers of the nomad Kurdish population, and of the settled Kurds and Armenians throughout the province. I have reason to suppose that the Turkish official records contain most meagre and untrustworthy information on this subject, which is a very important one as regards the question of provincial reform. You were yourself present a few days ago when I was discussing the question of population with the Bishop of Moosh, who on being first questioned, boldly put the number of Armenian males in the Moosh province at 160,000. On learning that I had made previous inquiries on this subject, he suddenly reduced the number to 120,000, while the official Government records give 48,800 only.

Special inquiry should also be made at Moosh as to the state of the Modki Kurds and their relations with the local Government, to which for some time past they have been causing considerable anxiety.

As travelling in the Vilayet of Van is impracticable in the winter season, and as either you or I, or perhaps both of us, will probably spend the winter in Van, I would not desire, on the present occasion, that you should make a lengthened stay there; but after entering into the necessary relations with the local officials I would wish you, if possible, to visit the districts south and south-east of Van, more particularly those parts of the country inhabited by the Nestorian Christians, a people who have lately been specially recommended to my protection by Lord Salisbury, whose despatches on the subject you have had an opportunity of perusing while at Erzeroum. It would be desirable, if possible, to visit Kochannes, the somewhat inaccessible residence of Mar Thimoon, the Nestorian Patriarch, with whom you should endeavour to enter into amicable relations.

Statistics as to the Nestorian population in Turkish territory are much to be desired.

You will doubtless come into contact, in the course of your travels, with some of the principal Kurdish Chiefs, and I would strongly recommend you to lose no opportunities of making their acquaintance and listening to what they have to say for themselves, as they are a most important class, who are, perhaps, too little considered in propositions made for the future well-being of the country.

In many districts, moreover, the personal safety of yourself and those who are with you will depend more on the goodwill of these Chiefs than on that of the Osmanli officials. Some would-be reformers in this country talk of transforming the nomadic pastoral Kurds, by a stroke of the pen, into fixed and settled agriculturists. You will have opportunities of judging the practicability or otherwise of this suggestion.

You have come, as far as I can judge, to this country without preformed prejudices against any one class or classes of the population, and I feel sure Her Majesty's Government will approve of my requesting you to bear in mind that what is above all things ultimately desired for this country is the formation of a strong and just Government, under which all classes of the community may equally prosper. This point should be carefully kept in view in all propositions you may hereafter make for the better Government of the country.

You will also please specially bear in mind that although Her Majesty's Government are in immediate want of accurate information as to the political and social state of the country, it is also very necessary that wherever you go you seize all favourable opportunities of acquiring and obtaining information which may hereafter be of use for military purposes, on the supposition that at some day not very far distant Her Majesty's Government might possibly be involved in hostilities with a neighbouring Power, in connection with the Convention of the 4th June, 1878. I think it right that I should say (and Her Majesty's Government, who will be provided with a copy of this despatch, will doubtless correct me if they think otherwise), that, as your political duties are of primary importance, it is desirable that you should not run the risk of weakening your own position and influence, and of incurring the suspicions, and, perhaps, active hostility, of officials and Kurdish Chiefs, by too open a display of thirst for acquiring knowledge of a military and geographical nature.

While I remain in Erzeroum your despatches and Reports should be addressed to me. They should invariably be accompanied by a copy for transmission to Her Majesty's Embassy. When I am absent from Erzeroum despatches should also be addressed to me, but a copy should be sent direct to Her Majesty's Ambassador. In case of any very important documents two copies should, if possible, be sent, one for the Secretary of State, and the other for the Ambassador. You have fortunately been able to secure here the services of a good dragoman, who writes English fairly, and as such an individual is indispensable to you for the efficient performance of your duties, you are, in the absence of any special allowance for office expenses, authorized to charge his salary in your travelling expenses.

The Russian Consul-General having suggested that the new Russian Acting Vice-Consul for Van, Major Kamsaragan, should accompany you in your journey from here to Van, I have, after consultation with you, replied that I cordially approve of the proposal. Major Kamsaragan is, as you know, an Armenian by birth, and I cannot but think that your acting as far as practicable in harmony and co-operation with him will be productive of beneficial results.

Wishing you a pleasant and successful journey, I have, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 165.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Kaisariyeh, July 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople expressing a hope that the Porte might be induced to comply with the request of the Vali of Konieh for regular troops to enable him to keep order amongst the Circassians, as he has now no trained force at his disposal.

I have at the same time drawn attention to the insecurity to life and property caused by the presence of armed bands of Circassians in some districts of the Vilayet of Konieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Kaisariyeh, July 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to state that I forwarded a telegram to your Excellency on the 18th instant, expressing a hope that the Porte might be induced to comply with the request of the Vali of Konieh for regular troops (cavalry), to enable him to keep order amongst the Circassians.

The Circassians are in large numbers at Ak Serai, Ergli, and other places in the Vilayet of Konieh, and the people suffer much from their lawless habits. About a year ago the Circassians at Ak Serai were distributed in the surrounding villages, but they have now reassembled in larger numbers, and the insecurity is such that I am assured some of the Christian families have left the place.

At Eregli there are, living in the town itself, over 200 Circassians, who openly defy the local authority, and refuse to accept the quarters assigned to them in the villages.

At Bor I heard similar complaints, and at Nijdeh I was informed that the feeling of insecurity was becoming so great, that some of the leading Christian families were endeavouring to sell their farms and leave the country.

Nothing can excuse the almost criminal action of the Turkish Government last year in suddenly letting loose an armed body of men upon a country, inhabited by a quiet, inoffensive people, not accustomed to carry arms, and still suffering from the effects of the great famine, at a time when more than half the able-bodied population had been withdrawn to meet the strain of the war with Russia.

The Circassians came into the country with nothing but their arms; now every Circassian has a horse, some two or three. They receive an allowance raised by a tax upon the community amongst which they live, but, not content with this, take what they please from the people. They follow no pursuits save those of highway robbery and petty pilfering; and, being well armed with rifles, revolvers, and swords, whilst the zaptiehs have often nothing better than flint-lock guns, they place the local Government at defiance; the people who suffer have no redress.

I am aware that orders have been sent from Constantinople to distribute the Circassians amongst the various villages, and that the Vali and Ali Riza Bey, the Imperial Commissioner, have made every effort to carry out the orders they have received, but, with the best intentions, these gentlemen are powerless.

The Circassians are, in fact, completely masters of the situation, and are likely to remain so unless some force of regular troops, say a regiment of cavalry, is placed at the disposal of the Vali.

Until the Circassians are forcibly disarmed and distributed in separate villages, I see little hope of security for life and property in some portions of the Konieh Vilayet, and I understand that a worse state of affairs exists in the Siwas Vilayet.

The Vali of Konieh informed Captain Stewart, when he brought the state of Ak

Serai to his notice, that he had telegraphed more than once to Constantinople for troops, but had received no answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

No. 167.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 141. Political.)
My Lord, *Sophia, July 26, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with the instructions given in your Lordship's despatch No. 80, 19th June, 1879, I this morning laid before M. Balabanow, Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the petition from the Mussulmans of Varna and Prascadi, communicated by the Turkish Ambassador at Her Majesty's Court, as also the petition addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople by the Mussulmans of Sofia, bearing date the 7th May, present year, as to the difficulty found by them in disposing of, or even recovering their property. I also laid before the Minister aforesaid the letter of his Excellency Carathéodory Pasha, inclosing the address from the Mussulmans of Varna and Prascadi, and asserting an identical state of affairs to exist in the districts of Sophia, Radomir, and Kustendil. I further insisted on the gravity of such evils, and especially from the point of view taken in your Lordship's despatch above mentioned.

In regard of the Varna petition, M. Balabanow, at my request, caused copies to be taken of the cases alleged to have occurred within Bulgarian territory, promising that these copies should be immediately sent to the Governors of Varna and the adjoining districts, and separate inquiry made in every instance. The results will be transmitted to me for your Lordship's information. But about half the alleged crimes being reported as having occurred in the district of Aïdos, belonging to East Roumelia, are beyond the range of Bulgarian inquiry or jurisdiction.

Further, M. Balabanow stated that, by His Highness the Prince's order, strict injunctions had already been issued to all Governors and Magistrates within the Principality for the special protection and assistance of the Mahommedan population.

For what concerned the districts of Sophia, Radomir, and Kustendil, M. Balabanow flatly denied the occurrence of the atrocities alleged there to exist by the Ottoman Minister, and appealed to my own local knowledge and observation.

In regard of the complaints as to the difficulties created where property has to be sold, transferred, or recovered, M. Balabanow admitted that the enormous number of cases all suddenly on hand at once, as also the complicated nature of a large proportion of those cases, had in a manner overpowered and paralyzed the ordinary Tribunals, so that all classes, whether sellers or buyers, Mahommedans or Christians, had suffered equally in this matter. A statement, I may add, strictly true. Hence a proposition had, M. Balabanow continued, been already laid before the Ministerial Council, for the creation of special succursal Tribunals, to examine and decide in these matters, according to impartial law. His Highness the Prince has, I am informed, much urged the proposed measure, and it will, I believe, be adopted without delay. On this, as on the alleged atrocities in the Varna district, M. Balabanow promised further report and information.

I have reason to think that your Lordship's views in these matters are not only fully appreciated, but will be energetically acted on by the Government of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 168.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 142. Political. Confidential.)

Sophia, July 26, 1879.

My Lord,

IN regard to your Lordship's despatch No. 82, Confidential, of the 19th June, and its inclosure, on the subject of the jurisdiction of the Bulgarian Exarch, I have the honour to report:—

That his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard, in citing me as concurring in the "opinion that it would be very desirable if the Porte could revoke the Firman creating the Bulgarian Exarch," has unconsciously given a somewhat too decided expression to my views, which on that point coincide, so far as I am aware, with those of M. de Kallay, stated by his Excellency further on in the same despatch. Practically, the revocation, or even notable modification of the Firman in question would, I think, involve greater dangers, especially at the present moment, than even its observance, though I fully admit the perils of the latter; but of two risks the lesser may generally be preferred.

It may be doubted, too, whether the 4th paragraph of Article LXII of the Treaty of Berlin might not be validly invoked against any direct interference in this matter.

As to the Exarch's place of residence, which must also, by existing arrangements, be the meeting-place of the Holy Synod, Constantinople would certainly appear, for important considerations, preferable to Philippopolis; but in an interview which at Mr. Michell's advice I had with the Exarch in Philippopolis last week, the statements made me by that Prelate regarding the want of confidence which would be felt by the Bulgarians generally in a representation held under the permanent influence and immediate observation of the Porte, and the opposition which would certainly be made to such a measure by the prelates and clergy of the Principality in particular, make me doubtful whether it could be carried out in practice. To attempt to force it would be certainly unwise.

The late Russian Commissioner used his full influence to bring the Exarch to reside within the Principality, a measure in the frustration of which I took a leading part. Nor would the inconveniences and dangers of such a residence be less now than they would have been then; perhaps even greater.

It is, I understand, the intention of the Prelate in question shortly to visit his own proper and titular diocese of Lofteha, within the Principality, and on this occasion he will probably pay his respects to His Highness the Prince at Sophia. I will carefully keep your Lordship informed of what passes on this visit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 169.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 143. Political.)

Sophia, July 26, 1879.

My Lord,

IN regard of his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard's communication No. 189, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 90, of the 3rd July, present year, I have the honour to report:—

The information stated by his Excellency Count Zichy, as received by his Government, that Panslavist and revolutionary agents are engaged at Sophia, Widdin, and some other places in Bulgaria, in making preparations for an approaching invasion of Macedonia, is, as I have already had the honour to report to his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard, erroneous. Neither Panslavism nor revolutionary designs would at the present moment find any echo in Bulgaria. Nor does any extra-official organization or Committee exist, either at Sophia or elsewhere within the Principality, except a relief Society, founded at the close of the late war. To this Society a decided effort was made, in the summer and autumn of last year, to give a political, and, in particular, a pro-Macedonian character; but the move did not suit the Russian Provisional Government, and was effectually stopped.

Malcontents from Macedonia, who visit the Principality in hopes of furthering their own cause, are of frequent occurrence. This is natural, and cannot be avoided. But to my certain knowledge, beyond general sympathy or pity, they obtain nothing.

On the other hand, while a positive dislike for the Servians, and a marked coolness, almost amounting, under the circumstances, to ingratitude, towards the Russians, with a vague aversion from the Czechs, marks the Bulgarians as rather Anti- than Pan-Slavists, they are all, at heart, Pan-Bulgarians, and would gladly see whoever can claim a common origin, whether in East Roumelia or in Macedonia, annexed to and sharing the advantages of the Principality. To foster this feeling there is no need of any Committee; the entire nationality is, potentially, one vast Committee itself in that view; but at present, and within the Principality, potentially and in theory only. Common sense, and the loyalty of the existing Government to European and international stipulations, prevent it from going further; still it cannot be denied that so general and deep-seated a feeling, however repressed now, constitutes a real danger, one that might, by occurrences outside the Principality, be readily converted into a terrible misfortune. But should such a crisis unhappily occur, the fatal movement will be originated in, and communicated from outside, the Principality, not within it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 170.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 144. Political. Confidential.)

Sophia, July 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday evening His Highness the Prince, after receiving me at table, held with me a long and confidential conversation regarding his own affairs, those of the Principality, and the relations of either towards Her Majesty's Government.

During the course of conversation, I took occasion to call His Highness' attention to three points as of paramount importance for the maintenance of friendship and the good of the Principality. Firstly, the equitable treatment of the Mahommedan subjects of the Principality; secondly, the speedy demolition of the remaining fortresses within its limits; and thirdly, the restricting the army within moderate proportions. A fourth point, of perhaps more vital importance than any of the preceding, namely, abstention from any limitrophine interference or intrigue, especially to the east or south, it seemed better to me to assume and refer to as an undoubted and admitted axiom, than to define in separate phrase.

His Highness' answer on each of these points was eminently satisfactory. Regarding the Mahommedan population, he said that he considered himself as bound not merely to equity but to indulgence, both by his duty as administrator, and even more by his promises given to Her Majesty and to yourself. That to that effect he had issued orders of the same tenour to the Governors and Magistrates throughout the Principality, enjoining, in particular, the permissive use of the Turkish language in the local Tribunals and Courts, both in speech and writing. Also that he was actually engaged in creating Special Commissions, auxiliary to the ordinary Courts of law, for the receiving and examining all complaints or grievances, and notably those relative to the sale or transfer of property, brought forward by Mahommedan owners, with a view to prompt and equitable despatch; and that, to set example in the matter, he himself made a rule of personally examining and, where possible, giving effect to every such petition presented to himself. Also that the Cross should be removed from the caps of Mahommedan army recruits. Further, His Highness promised me every facilitation towards whatever investigations your Lordship might desire into alleged Mahommedan grievances, and begged me to bring every authentic instance with which I might become acquainted to his immediate notice.

In regard of the fortifications yet left in the Principality, His Highness observed that they were for the most part earthworks, and that their effacement would be, in a measure, better effected by leaving them to the action of weather and plough, than by the expensive process of active demolition. But he promised that whatever stone or wood was employed in the *revêtements* and the like should be speedily removed, either

by paid labour or otherwise. Speaking on this topic, His Highness observed that the strategical value of the fortifications in question lay rather on the north than on the south, if, indeed, under the present arrangement, they could be properly said to have any value at all. These considerations, however, he added, were of little weight, the exact fulfilment of the conditions on which he had been called to the Administration, those, namely, of the Berlin Treaty, being for him sufficient motive.

As to the Bulgarian militia, His Highness noted that it had been already reduced to little more than half its original strength, a fact which, indeed, I have myself already had the honour to report to your Lordship in previous communications, and that he had no intention of increasing its numbers.

After a prolonged discussion of these points, during which His Highness himself used, and allowed me, the utmost freedom of question and answer, the Prince assured me of his entire and settled determination to abide by the intentions he had expressed and the promises he had made to Her Majesty, of whom, as also of other members of the Royal family, he spoke in terms of deep and respectful affection, and to yourself. He trusted that his administration would not be regarded by you as a mere continuation and participant of the defects of that which had preceded it; still more that his own sincerity might not be questioned, because that of others who had held place before him had not been always equally assured.

But of the attempt made at the Porte to frustrate his intended visit to Constantinople, on the way out, and of the reception ultimately made him at the Ottoman capital, so different, both in tokens of outward regard and in cordiality of manner from that which he had experienced at the other European Courts, His Highness spoke with undisguised and intense annoyance. He assured me that he had all along, but especially after his interviews with Her Majesty, cherished a special desire for, and even a hope of, winning and even retaining the good graces of his Suzerain; and that it was above all in that view that he had insisted on visiting his Ottoman Majesty. The intimations received to the contrary while in Italy had been proportionately unpleasant. That this obstacle had been removed, he felt himself mainly indebted to Her Majesty and Her Government. But when at Constantinople, to have been received by the Ottoman subordinates in absolute deshabille, to have been presented to his Suzerain with as little circumstance of form or courtesy of reception as if he had been a mere chance or private visitor, to have had the Firman of Investiture withheld, under the merest pretext, after the express promise of its delivery; to have had his presence on the Bosphorus made an occasion of police surveillance and unfriendly precautions, the Sultan's own manner and language so destitute, not merely of cordiality but even of common confidence; these things, with many necessary details unnecessary to enter into here, had, His Highness said, impressed him with a feeling of vexation and displeasure that he cared not to conceal, and that it would require a very different treatment to make him exchange for a better. He felt that his good intentions had been, so far as lay in his Ottoman Majesty, frustrated, his own person slighted, and a slur cast, not only on himself and the Principality, but on the European Courts, where so markedly different a line of conduct had been pursued in general.

I did my best to soften and explain away; falling back on the influence of retrograde and fanatical partisans or councillors, the fear of arousing popular bigotry, national excitement, and the like, but without much effect. However, His Highness assured me that the respect he owed to the European Powers, and to Her Majesty in particular, and the obligations he was under to her and them, would suffice to prevent his ever conducting himself otherwise than respectfully and loyally towards the Ottoman Sultan; but that his motives for doing so, at least till the affront offered him should have been effaced by proper courtesy, would be drawn not from Constantinople, but from the European Courts, and notably the English. I gave a cordial assent to the latter part of this proposition, without over much dwelling on the former, except to recommend forbearance and moderation.

More than once during the interview His Highness alluded to frontier movements and disquietudes, particularly in Macedonia, but only to assure me of his absolute abstention from all concern in or participation with them, and his intention to keep the Principality clear of such matters, in which he trusted fully to succeed. He touched also on the gratitude he felt due to His Majesty the Russian Emperor, and its probable influence over his own conduct; but added that he had no intention of making either himself or the Principality subservient to Russian interests or designs, either now or in future.

In conclusion, His Highness renewed his assurances of personal good-will and assistance to myself in the discharge of my duties within the Principality; and

requested that I would give your Lordship the fullest information that I might think expedient both of his intentions and dispositions, and of his Administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 171.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 28, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of the Resolutions moved by Baron de Ring at a meeting of the Commission held this day, and adopted by all the Delegates, with the exception of those of Italy and Russia.

The Resolutions give practically to the Porte the possession of the posts and telegraphs of this province, in accordance with the spirit of Article 19 of the Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 171.

Baron de Ring's Resolutions.

LA Commission Européenne déclare ce qui suit:—

1. Dans l'économie du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, les postes et les télégraphes ne constituent pas des services provinciaux, mais des services Impériaux (Article 19, premier alinéa), et c'est pour cette raison qu'ils n'ont été rattachés à aucune des Directions de services administratifs provinciaux.

Il suit de ce principe qu'en Roumélie Orientale les employés des postes et des télégraphes sont des employés non de la province mais de l'Empire.

2. Les Traités, Conventions, Lois, et Règlements qui régissent les postes et les télégraphes dans l'Empire Ottoman s'appliquent à la province. Il en est de même des ordres généraux de service émanant de l'Administration Centrale des Postes et des Télégraphes à Constantinople (Article 19 et Article 20).

3. Le Statut a mis les frais d'entretien et d'exploitation des postes et des télégraphes à la charge de la province, en lui attribuant en échange la moitié des recettes postales et la totalité des recettes télégraphiques qui ne proviennent pas de la correspondance internationale (Article 198).

Comme ce partage des recettes doit être entouré de garanties pour la province, il résulte implicitement de l'Article 198 que l'Administration des finances provinciales exerce sur l'Administration postale et télégraphique comprise dans les limites de la Roumélie Orientale un droit d'inspection et de contrôle.

4. En disposant qu'au point de vue du service et de la discipline les fonctionnaires et employés des postes et des télégraphes relèvent du Gouverneur-Général comme représentant du pouvoir central (Article 19, alinéa 2), le Statut a fait du Gouverneur-Général le Chef des services postaux et télégraphiques dans la province qui lui est confiée; d'où la conséquence que le Gouverneur-Général doit présider à l'organisation de ces services, en diriger et surveiller le fonctionnement, et exercer le pouvoir disciplinaire sur les employés.

5. Comme cependant les intérêts pécuniaires de la province seraient compromis et que l'autorité du Gouverneur-Général sur les employés des postes et des télégraphes serait rendue illusoire si le dit Gouverneur-Général n'exerçait aucune influence sur la distribution et la formation des bureaux, de même que sur la nomination et l'avancement des employés, il convient d'interpréter les Articles 19 et 198 combinés dans ce sens que l'Administration Centrale des Postes à Constantinople doit s'entendre avec le Gouverneur-Général pour fixer le nombre et la composition des bureaux postaux et télégraphiques, pour créer ou supprimer des lignes, et enfin pour nommer et promouvoir les employés.

6. Les employés des postes et des télégraphes en Roumélie Orientale étant des employés de l'Empire, sont placés, en ce qui concerne leur rang hiérarchique et leurs

émoluments, dans les mêmes conditions que les employés correspondants en résidence dans les autres provinces.

No. 172.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 117.) *Philippopolis, July 20, 1879.*

My Lord,

I CALLED last night on Aléko Pasha and congratulated him, as the Representative of the Sultan, on the completion of the Russian evacuation of the province which he governed.

His Excellency affected to be unprepared for the announcement of the fact which had been telegraphed to me from Bourgas, but after a little time he expressed, in a demonstrative manner, his cordial thanks for my congratulations.

In the course of further conversation he admitted that General Stolipine had informed him of his intention to evacuate the province by the 4/17th instant, the date on which the evacuation was in reality completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 173.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No 118.) *Philippopolis, July 27, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, during the past week, the process of repatriating the Turkish refugees has made some progress.

Special trains laden with returning refugees have been arriving almost daily, and the number of those who have returned during the week amounts to a total of several thousands. The majority of these unfortunate people belong to the villages of this district, and pending their return to their native localities, they are being huddled together in the wooden sheds which until lately served as hospitals for the Russian troops.

I am sorry to say that a high rate of mortality prevails amongst the returning refugees, owing to poverty and privations.

It is to be feared that the death-rate will be increased by the effects of overcrowding in buildings.

On the other hand the work of restoring the refugees to their homes does not appear to be making much progress, the Bulgarians who have been in occupation of the undestroyed Turkish dwellings showing much reluctance to evacuate them, and in many cases pulling down those dwellings and carrying away the materials rather than restore them to their rightful owners.

In one instance, it is reported, an entire Turkish village (that of Sallykeui, district of Kaeadja-dagh) on being evacuated by its temporary Bulgarian occupants, was the other day burnt to the ground.

The Governor-General has insisted on a further sum of £T. 10,000 being allotted for the purpose of providing with new homes the Bulgarians who now occupy Turkish houses.

The few Turks who have lately returned to their villages complain of ill-treatment at the hands of the Bulgarian peasantry, and their reports of the conduct of the latter are deterring the bulk of the refugees from venturing out of the town.

On alighting at the railway station the refugees and their baggage are strictly searched and all arms that come to light are confiscated by the police.

The quantity of arms discovered among them has not, I believe, been very large.

During the first day or two of their arrival complaint was made of indecent behaviour on the part of the police in searching the persons of the female refugees; and the authorities have now, in consequence, began to employ women searchers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 174.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 120.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 29, 1879.*

THE following is an account of the circumstances under which the "Bulgarian" flag on the bridge near the konak was removed on the 24th instant by the orders of the Governor-General.

His Excellency had called the attention of the new Prefect of Police, Captain Raïkovitch, to a flag which, from the window of his reception room, he saw floating over the bridge, and had asked him what kind of flag it was? The Prefect replied that it was the Bulgarian flag, and that it had been flying before his appointment in succession to Captain Sokolovski.

The Governor-General then put the same question to a Bulgarian employé in his Chancellerie, and, having received a similar answer, he gave orders to the Prefect of Police to remove the unwarranted symbol of nationality, and to cut up the pole on which it was hoisted.

Captain Raïkovitch proceeded to carry out this verbal order, and took with him two gendarmes who, after showing some reluctance to comply with his instructions, cut down the flagstaff hurriedly and without first lowering the flag itself.

This incident has given rise to the report that the flag was "dragged in the dirt;" but, as a matter of fact, it was cut off the pole when the latter fell, and was taken by the Prefect uninjured to the police office.

Later in the evening the Prefect, on crossing the bridge, found a considerable crowd collected on the site of the flagstaff. Having addressed the crowd with no effect beyond that of eliciting cries for his immersion in the river, the Prefect, after succeeding in keeping his would-be assailants back by brandishing his whip, galloped off to Deïrmenderé to make his report to the Governor-General.

Meanwhile, the Bulgarian mob, which was chiefly composed of tradesmen and artizans, who had closed their shops on discovering that the flag had been removed, proceeded to set up a new flag on an improvised staff, which they guarded throughout the night.

The same evening the Bulgarian National Committee dispatched messengers to the neighbouring villages to summon the members of the Gymnastic Societies to Philippopolis.

Seven or eight hundred peasants were thus collected in the town during the night, and held ready to take the arms and ammunition which the "National Committee" hold in store for such emergencies.

It has been reported to me that, although the mob around the flagstaff and in the principal street was not armed with rifles, yet that it was well supplied with concealed small arms. Many militiamen in plain clothes were recognized amidst the crowd.

The next morning the Governor-General gave orders to M. Chrestowiez to issue, in his name, a Proclamation summoning the Bulgarian mob to take down the flag which they had hoisted, and threatening in case of disobedience to leave the province by the early train next day.

Thereupon a deputation, consisting of the Bulgarian Metropolitan, the Director of Public Instruction, and M. Stephen Gaesboff, waited upon his Excellency and proffered expressions of regret at the occurrence which had provoked his displeasure; they promised, furthermore, to remove the Bulgarian flag provided the Governor-General would cause the flagstaff at his konak to be cut down.

Aleko Pasha states that he rejected this condition with indignation, and told the deputation that the question of hoisting the Sultan's colours was one which could only be discussed between his Sovereign and himself.

The result of this interview was that the so-called Bulgarian flag was finally removed from the bridge by the Bulgarians themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 175.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 12.*)

(No. 121. Confidential.)

Philippopolis, July 29, 1879.

My Lord,

MY Russian colleague, after observing that he had not spoken to me before on politics, asked me this day to tell him what policy I was pursuing in Eastern Roumelia, and what result I was endeavouring to attain by the course which I was taking at the meetings of the Commission? He added that, having learnt from St. Petersburgh that our Governments were acting cordially together, he was all the more anxious to ascertain whether he could not come to an arrangement with me on the subject of the motions that were being brought before the Commission. He hinted that the objects I was pursuing, either under instructions from your Lordship or from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, were those of weakening the power of the Governor-General and of bringing about an occupation of the province by Turkish troops.

I told Prince Tzeretelew, in reply, that I was equally anxious to co-operate with him on the ground of a perfect understanding, and that the only course I was pursuing was that of watching over the strict execution of the Treaty of Berlin and the exact application of the Organic Statute. At the same time I assured him, as a matter of fact, that I had never received, either from Her Majesty's Government or from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, any instructions whatever as to a line of "policy" to be pursued by me in Eastern Roumelia, and that my acts and my language, since my arrival in this province, had been solely dictated by my own conception of the duty which I owed to my Government in the responsible position in which I had been placed.

Taking up, first of all, the question of calling in Turkish troops, I gave Prince Tzeretelew an earnest assurance that the communications I had received from the Foreign Office and from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople were free from any indication that such a contingency was considered desirable. I thought that, on the contrary, Her Majesty's Government would view with dismay the approach of such a necessity, and I was also personally most anxious that it should never arise.

As regarded the position of the Governor-General I asserted that, if I had any "policy" at all, it was that of strengthening the hands of Aleko Pasha, as, in my opinion, a weak and timid Ruler could only engender a disregard or evasion of established law, and promote a condition of disorder and anarchy. The only point on which I could differ, in this respect, from my Russian colleague was, perhaps, that which related to the means by which so desirable an object as that of strengthening the authority and position of the Governor-General could be best attained.

In my opinion it could only be attained by making Aleko Pasha amenable to the wishes and the will of the Great Powers and by emancipating him from his present subjection to the "National Committee," under the menacing dictates of which he was fast converting this province into a "Southern Bulgaria."

Further evidence of such a tendency was now being afforded by the arrangements in progress for constituting a Provincial Assembly, of which the elected members would be exclusively Bulgarian; and I thought it right to warn the Russian Commissioner that such a result would be viewed in England and in other countries with much disappointment and might even lead to serious disturbance in the sphere of politics.

Prince Tzeretelew said, in reply to this observation, that the result of the election would undoubtedly show that this province was essentially Bulgarian, and that the law and method of election could not be changed simply because the result of the election would not coincide with the views and expectations of our Prime Minister.

He then proceeded to deny the existence of any occult influence over the conduct of Aleko Pasha, and insisted that the "National Committee" had been dissolved after the last visit of General Obrutcheff to Philippopolis.

I was therefore compelled to tell him that my information differed very essentially from his own on this point; for, although the original Committee had, in reality, been dissolved, it had nevertheless been reconstituted in another form, with ramifications throughout every district in the province. The names of the members and officers of the Committee were well known to me, and their activity had, on several occasions, been only too apparent. As an instance of that activity I asked Prince Tzeretelew if he knew by whose orders 700 to 800 peasants, belonging to the Gymnastic Society, had

been hastily summoned a few days ago to Philippopolis in order to overawe the Governor-General in the matter of the lowering of the so-called Bulgarian flag.

The Prince replied that I evidently believed in the story of armed gymnasts parading the streets during the course of the incident in question, whereas, as a matter of fact, they had carried no arms whatever. He did not, however, pursue the subject any further after I had observed that there was no occasion for the peasants to come into the town with arms in their hands, since the "National Committee" had a very ample store of rifles and ammunition at their disposal in the town itself. I added that he must himself see that no regular government, and no proper respect for law and authority could be established under such circumstances.

To our mutual amusement, a common acquaintance, one of the Treasurers of the "National Committee," came to call upon Prince Tzeretelew as I was on the point of leaving the Russian Consulate-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 176.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 12.*)

(No. 123.)

Philippopolis, July 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the Commission on the 26th instant with reference to the establishment of the powers of the Commission and the organization of the postal and telegraph services in this province.

The further discussion of the latter subject was adjourned to the 28th instant, but your Lordship will perceive, from the course of the discussion, that the Delegates of Italy and Russia were alone opposed to the view that those services should be rendered Imperial, not provincial.

M. de Kallay's argument that "the experience of the last two months had shown that the interests of the Empire would be more exposed than those of the province," had considerable effect on the result of the discussion.

At the same meeting I gave notice of a motion on the subject of the Greek petition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 74, tenue le $\frac{14}{26}$ Juillet, 1879 (8 Chaban, 1296), à la Délégation Ottomane à Philippopoli.

Présidence de M. DE BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vérnoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha.
Abro Effendi.

La séance est ouverte à 5 heures du soir.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rözet, est adopté.

Abro Effendi annonce que les Commissaires de Turquie ont reçu du Gouvernement Ottoman l'ordre de se rallier au vote de leurs collègues sur les premier et troisième Articles de la rédaction votée à la dernière séance pour définir le nouveau mandat de la Commission; "Il est bien entendu," ajoute le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie, "que notre adhésion au troisième Article ne porte aucune atteinte aux droits découlant pour la Sublime Porte du Traité de Berlin.

M. de Kallay retire sa réserve au sujet du troisième alinéa du deuxième Article de la rédaction votée à la dernière séance.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne retire aussi sa réserve au sujet du même alinéa.

Les Délégués de la Grande Bretagne et d'Italie acceptent le même alinéa, sauf approbation de leurs Gouvernements.

Le Président constate que le nouveau mandat de la Commission se trouve défini. Il fixe comme suit l'ordre du jour, avec l'assentiment de tous les membres de la réunion:

1. La discussion de la réponse à faire à la lettre adressée, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Juin, au Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne par son Excellence Aleko Pacha;

La motion suivante, que dépose le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne au sujet d'une pétition adressée le 13 Juin par la démogérontie de Philippopoli à la Commission Européenne:

"*Motion.*

"La Commission Européenne, ayant pris connaissance de la pétition qui lui a été adressée par la démogérontie Grecque de Philoppopoli, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Juin, est d'avis qu'effectivement, depuis la promulgation du Statut Organique, l'Article 21 n'a pas été appliqué dans l'esprit qui avait guidé la Commission en le rédigeant; et qu'en conséquence, pour les nominations des Administrateurs-Généraux et autres fonctionnaires publics, le Gouverneur-Général n'a pas tenu un compte suffisant des intérêts des principales minorités ethnographiques indigènes de la Roumélie Orientale.

Elle estime de son devoir de notifier cette opinion au Gouverneur-Général et de lui transmettre en même temps copie de la pétition susdite."

La Commission passe à la discussion de la réponse à faire à la lettre adressée le $\frac{13}{25}$ Juin à son Président temporaire par son Excellence Aleko Pacha.

Le Président juge utile de donner lecture de la lettre du Gouverneur-Général:

"M. le Président, "*Philippopoli, le $\frac{15}{27}$ Juin*, 1879.

"Vu l'Article 7, alinéa 2; l'Article 17, alinéa 2; l'Article 19, alinéa 2; l'Article 31, alinéa 3; et l'Article 198, alinéas 1, 2, 3 et 4, du Statut Organique, j'ai chargé M. le Docteur Voukovitch de s'occuper de l'organisation et de la direction des postes et des télégraphes de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Comme Haïdar Effendi, Directeur des Postes et des Télégraphes à Constantinople, par sa lettre en date du 18 Mai, maintient que ce droit est absolument réservé à l'Empire Ottoman, ainsi que son Envoyé Macridi Effendi, fonctionnaire supérieur des télégraphes Ottomans, vient de le soutenir, je m'adresse à l'honorable Commission Européenne avec prière de vouloir bien m'expliquer le sens et l'esprit dans lesquels les Articles susmentionnés du Statut Organique ont été écrits et l'interprétation qu'elle croit nécessaire d'y donner et m'informer, en même temps, à qui est réservé le droit d'organiser et de diriger les postes et les télégraphes de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) "A. VOGORIDES."

Le Chevalier Vérnoni rappelle qu'il est l'auteur de l'un des articles au sujet desquels le Gouverneur-Général demande des éclaircissements: "A ce titre je dois," dit-il, "constater que l'idée de faire nommer par la Direction Centrale de Constantinople les employés des postes et télégraphes de la province ne m'est jamais venue un seul instant. J'ai du reste déclaré plusieurs fois qu'un fait de ce genre me semblait incompatible avec la situation privilégiée faite à la Roumélie Orientale. J'ajouterai enfin que je reconnais absolument au Gouvernement Impérial le droit de légiférer sur ces matières; mais, en réservant à l'Empire Ottoman les revenus postaux et télégraphiques de cette province, j'ai établi que la Sublime Porte n'aurait point à intervenir dans l'organisation des services. Je ne saurais donner une autre interprétation aux Articles du Chapitre III; et, si je dois m'appuyer sur le principe énoncé par mon collègue de Turquie à la dernière séance au sujet de l'interprétation du Statut Organique, vous ne pouvez faire moins que d'accepter l'interprétation que je donne comme auteur de mes Articles."

Abro Effendi répond que les Commissaires de Turquie n'eussent jamais adhéré aux opinions que vient d'émettre M. Vernoni, si elles eussent été développées en séance lors de l'élaboration du Statut: "Je croyais," dit-il, "que la Commission réservant à la Turquie les postes et les télégraphes Rouméliotes, il allait de soi que l'Empire en avait l'administration. Quant à l'observation de M. Vernoni qu'il est l'auteur du Chapitre sur les Finances, je considère pour ma part Sa Majesté le Sultan comme l'auteur du Statut Organique."

Son Excellence Assim Pacha ajoute que l'Article 19 du Statut Organique adopté longtemps avant que M. Vernoni ait rédigé le Chapitre sur les Finances, lui paraît trancher la question d'une manière complète: "Cet Article," fait-il remarquer, "dit expressément que les postes et télégraphes sont réservés à l'Empire; et pour ne laisse aucun doute à ce sujet, il donne au Gouverneur-Général un droit de surveillance disciplinaire sur les employés de ces services. Si le Gouverneur-Général eût nommé ces fonctionnaires, lui eût-on confié d'une manière spéciale le droit de les surveiller disciplinairement? Pourquoi le Statut Organique parlant des fonctionnaires nommés par le Gouverneur-Général ne dit-il pas la même chose?"

Le Prince Tzeretelew déclare que si l'on considère Sa Majesté le Sultan comme l'auteur de Statut Organique, toute discussion devient impossible. Il constate que si les employés des postes et des télégraphes devaient être nommés par le Sultan, il en aurait été question dans l'Article 7 du Statut, Article qui énumère les fonctionnaires qui doivent être choisis ou confirmés par la Sublime Porte.

Le Commissaire de Russie croit utile de rappeler à ce propos une observation faite par son Excellence Assim Pacha à la séance No. 20:

"'La nomination des fonctionnaires,' disait alors le Premier Commissaire de Turquie, 'telle qu'elle est proposée dans l'Article 7, n'offre pas à mes collègues assez de garanties. Or, que dit cet Article? Il établit que le Gouverneur-Général choisira en définitive les Directeurs des Services Administratifs. Que sera ce Gouverneur-Général? Ce sera un fonctionnaire que la Porte nommera avec l'assentiment des Puissances. Pour que les Puissances . . . .'

"Les Délégués Ottomans," dit en terminant le Prince Tzeretelew, "étaient alors satisfaits de l'Article 7, bien qu'il n'y fut pas fait mention des employés des postes et des télégraphes."

Le Baron de Ring répond que si l'Article 7 n'a pas parlé des employés des postes et des télégraphes, c'est justement parce qu'on a considéré ces agents comme fonc-

tionnaires dépendant exclusivement de l'Administration Centrale de Constantinople, et parce qu'il était inutile de dire que les employés d'une Administration Impériale devaient être nommés par la Porte. Du reste, si la Commission Européenne avait voulu conférer au Gouverneur-Général le droit de nommer les employés dont il s'agit, elle eût pu la spécifier, ce qu'elle a fait pour ceux des douanes; on eût de la sorte créé en Roumélie Orientale une Direction des postes et des télégraphes. Comme il ne serait pas flatteur d'admettre que les Commissaires ont oublié deux services publics de cette importance, il faut dire que, s'il n'en a pas été fait mention, c'est qu'on les considérait comme indépendants de l'administration de la province. L'intervention de la Direction Centrale des Postes et Télégraphes à Constantinople ne saurait d'ailleurs nuire à la Roumélie Orientale; le Gouvernement Turc, qui doit toucher, quoiqu'il arrive, la moitié des revenus bruts des postes Rouméliotes n'a aucun intérêt à empêcher l'organisation de ces services dans un sens utile à la province; il n'a pas d'intérêt non plus à chercher à ce propos des conflits.

M. de Kallay partage entièrement l'opinion du Baron de Baron de Ring sur l'interprétation à donner à l'Article 19 du Statut. Il s'étonne que l'on admette toujours *a priori* que l'Empire sacrifiera les intérêts de la province; l'expérience des deux mois qui viennent de s'écouler prouve que les intérêts de l'Empire seront plus exposés que ceux de la Roumélie Orientale. Aux considérations développées par son collègue de France, et qui lui semblent avoir une très-grande valeur, le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie croit devoir ajouter l'argument suivant: aujourd'hui, dans la plupart des Etats de l'Europe, l'Administration des postes et télégraphes est considérée comme internationale, et elle conclut à ce titre certaines Conventions ou arrangements internationaux; l'Administration civile de la Roumélie Orientale ne pouvant conclure de Conventions internationales courrait risque de se trouver isolée; pour éviter un pareil danger, la Sublime Porte doit donc nommer les fonctionnaires supérieurs des Administrations postale et télégraphique de la nouvelle province.

M. de Braunschweig se déclare convaincu par l'argument de M. de Kallay; il partage les vues de ses collègues d'Autriche-Hongrie et de France.

Le Prince Tzeretelew constate que les Conventions postales ou télégraphiques conclues par le Gouvernement Ottoman seront en toute circonstance obligatoires pour la Roumélie Orientale; il ne réclame pour la province que le droit d'organiser pratiquement ces services.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de ses collègues, ajourne la suite du débat à la prochaine séance, fixée au 28 Juillet.

L'ordre du jour établi au début de la présente séance est maintenu.

La séance est levée à 8 heures du soir.

(Signé) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 177.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 124.) *Philippopolis, July 30, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Maritza" of the $\frac{17}{29}$th instant, in which General Vitalis is violently attacked with reference to the circumstances under which he recently disbanded a disorderly squadron of militia cavalry.

In the next number of the "Maritza" publicity was given to a protest to the same effect, addressed to "His Highness, Prince Alexander Vogorides, Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia," by the persons who, while only summoned to Philippolis in order to assist in the formation of electoral districts, styled themselves in that protest "the Representatives of the whole of Eastern Roumelia."

At the same time, in the heading under which the protest was reproduced in the "Maritza," the same persons were designated as the "Representatives of the whole of Southern Bulgaria," and the latter words were also repeated by the "Maritza" at the end of the protest, as follows:—

"Here follow the signatures of the collegiate representatives of Southern Bulgaria."

I have the honour to inclose a French translation of the protest, extracted from the "Maritza" of this date.

General Vitalis having brought these facts to the notice of the French Commissioner, and having also addressed to the other members of the Privy Council a letter in which he complains of the attacks made upon him, and denies the correctness of the facts alleged against him, Baron de Ring brought forward this day, at a meeting of the Commission, a resolution, unanimously carried, which declares that the act of the persons who thus protested against General Vitalis constituted an usurpation both of title and of functions, and blames the Governor-General for having accepted such an illegal document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 177.

Extract from the "Maritza," of July $\frac{17}{29}$, 1879.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{17}{29}$ Juillet, 1879.

NOUS publions plus bas une correspondance de Katunitza-Kouroé qui nous est adressée par un témoin des plus respectables des faits qui y sont relatés. Nous ne croyons pas avancer une chose hasardée en affirmant que l'on n'a jamais vu un Général se conduire de la sorte envers ses soldats—ceux-ci fussent-ils même coupables des plus grands crimes;—et après avoir lu cette correspondance, on sera certainement tenté de douter que Vitalis Pacha ait eu l'honneur de porter l'uniforme Français. Mais que diraient nos lecteurs, si nous leur racontions toutes les insultes que le Commandant d'une troupe Bulgare ne cesse de proférer publiquement contre la nation Bulgare, contre le chef et les membres d'un Gouvernement dont il fait lui-même partie? Et c'est en présence de tels faits que l'organe Grec de notre ville, enchanté des injures que Vitalis Pacha prodigue au peuple Bulgare, vient dresser des réquisitoires violents contre l'indiscipline de nos miliciens? La discipline, n'en déplaise aux grands stratégistes de Philippopoli, commence d'en haut. Si donc par malheur nos officiers et nos miliciens suivaient l'exemple de leur Chef, nous aurions infailliblement une force militaire cent fois pire que ne la représentent les calomnies de l'organe Pan-Helléniste. Mais fort heureusement, la semence des créateurs de notre armée est tombée sur un trop bon terrain pour que l'ivraie puisse l'étouffer. Nos droujines, désorganisées et voyant tous les jours changer leurs officiers, ne peuvent plus être les mêmes que les représentants de l'étranger ont naguère encore admirées, ces droujines dont la discipline exemplaire faisait l'objet constant des éloges de leurs Chefs d'alors. Mais de là jusqu'au point de dissolution complète où leur Chef actuel tend à les amener, il y a loin, et cette distance, nos miliciens ne la franchiront jamais.

Toutefois, il est grand temps que le Directoire s'occupe enfin sérieusement à mettre un terme à cet état de choses. Qu'il songe que bientôt il va être obligé de convoquer les électeurs. Eh bien, dans l'état de juste indignation que tout le pays partage à l'égard du Commandant de la milice, les électeurs ne peuvent ne pas protester par l'élection de Députés fort peu favorablement disposés envers un Gouvernement dans lequel siége un officier étranger, qui, non content d'avoir désorganisé et démoralisé une milice pour laquelle le pays dépense un tiers de son budget, se permet encore d'insulter publiquement toute la nation. Nous croyons inutile de signaler les graves complications que l'élection d'une Assemblée d'opposition ferait naître. Une pareille éventualité ne saurait, du reste, répondre ni aux intérêts de la Sublime Porte ni à ceux des Grandes Puissances, lesquelles ne voudront certainement pas, par égard pour un officier qui a d'une façon si évidente trompé leur confiance, remettre en question le succès de l'œuvre entreprise par elles!

Au surplus, il y a une des principales Grandes Puissances intéressée avant toutes les autres dans la solution de la question qui nous préoccupe; c'est la France, car

Vitalis Pacha se pare du nom Français qu'il s'est tant efforcé de compromettre dans notre pays.

Nous avons publié dans la partie Bulgare du numéro précédent de la "Maritza" la correspondance suivante de Katounitza-Konaré relatant les exploits de Vitalis Pacha dans cette localité :

Mercredi, 16 Juillet, le Général Vitalis, accompagné de trois officiers et d'une dizaine de cavaliers de l'escadron de Philippopoli, arriva dans notre village avec une foule de Grecs de Stanimacha. L'arrivée du Général Vitalis réjouit beaucoup nos villageois qui s'empressèrent autour de lui, s'attendant à ce qu'il leur donnât quelques conseils. Mais ils furent déçus dans leur espérance ; au lieu de sages conseils, ils durent entendre un interrogatoire Turc. Le Général était en effet venu pour interroger les anciens du village sur les dépositions faites par eux relativement à l'affaire du fils du nommé Petraki-oglou lequel avait tiré un coup de revolver sur un Maréchal-de-logis du 5e Escadron, sous prétexte que ses cavaliers auraient enlevé quelques morceaux de bois à la cabane de Petraki située tout près de notre village. L'attentat avait été commis le 22 Juin : le Maréchal-de-logis aurait certainement perdu sa vie si on n'était pas parvenu à arracher le revolver des mains de Petraki. Les soldats accourus au bruit s'emparèrent de Petraki et le firent conduire sous une escorte de quatre hommes à la police de Philippopoli. Mais ils eurent soin de recueillir d'abord les témoignages des villageois, témoins de ce qui s'était passé.

A notre grand étonnement, Petraki, au lieu d'être puni, fut mis en liberté dès le lendemain, et il s'en alla porter plainte devant l'autorité de Stanimacha. Les anciens de notre village furent mandés à Stanimacha enfermés séparément dans des cellules. Le bailli et le prêtre Grec de Stanimacha eurent beau user de tous les moyens d'intimidation et d'autres stratagèmes, ils ne purent obtenir des anciens de Konaré une rétractation de leurs dépositions.

Ne pouvant par des moyens justifier son fils, Petraki-oglou corrompit quelques Grecs de Stanimacha et fit signer par eux de fausses plaintes contre les cavaliers. Il n'eut pas plus de succès. A bout de ressources, Petraki-oglou adressa enfin, en compagnie de quelques Grecs gagnés à cet effet, une pétition à la Commission Européenne. A la suite de cette pétition, le Général Vitalis vint lui-même faire une enquête dans notre village. Il soumit nos anciens à un interrogatoire en Turc et lorsqu'il vit que ceux-ci persistaient dans leurs dépositions précédentes et se refusaient absolument à confirmer les mensonges des Grecs, le Général entra dans une belle fureur et se mit à leur tenir le langage suivant :

"En voulant cacher la mauvaise conduite des soldats, vous montrez par-là que vous êtes d'accord avec eux, c'est-à-dire que vous vous révoltez et que vous compromettez les libertés qui vous ont été données par l'Europe entière mais qui s'échapperont bientôt de vos mains comme les petits oiseaux de leur nid. Vous ne vous doutez pas seulement que 80,000 hommes de troupes Turques attendent déjà à Andrinople le moment d'envahir la Roumélie Orientale. Vous, Bulgares, vous êtes de votre nature stupides et entêtés. Sur qui comptez-vous ? Sur les Russes qui sont déjà partis et qui certes ne reviendront plus pour se battre pour vous ? Est ce-que vous compteriez par hasard sur les fusils que les Russes vous ont donnés ? Mais ce ne sont que des tabatières à balai qui portent à 300 mètres tandis que les fusils Turcs portent à 1,800. Vous avez en tout quatre canons et vous n'avez pas de poudre. Avec quoi résisterez-vous donc ?"

Nos villageois stupéfaits répondirent qu'ils ne comprenent pas qu'on les traite de révoltés parce qu'ils avaient donné des témoignages véridiques. Ne pouvant aboutir à ses fins avec nos villageois, le Général fit appeler un Maréchal-de-logis Circassien et lui dit : "Si tu obtiens une déclaration des cavaliers du 5e Escadron affirmant que leur ancien Capitaine M. Block ou le Colonel Kessakoff les ont excités à la révolte, tu seras nommé lieutenant." Le Circassien s'en alla interroger les cavaliers qui lui répondirent : "Ni le Capitaine Block ni le Colonel Kessakoff ne nous ont prêché la révolte et jamais non plus nous ne nous sommes mutinés. Voilà la vérité ! Que le Général fasse maintenant de nous ce qu'il veut." Cette réponse, le Circassien la transmit au Général Vitalis en ces termes : "Les cavaliers se mutinent parce qu'à son départ le Capitaine Block leur avait dit que la Bulgarie méridionale devenant une province Turque, lui il s'en allait dans la Bulgarie du Nord. Quant à vous faites ce que bon vous semble, a-t-il ajouté, des Grecs et des Turcs." Alors le Général Vitalis arracha les épaulettes à un caporal, les foula aux pieds et se mit à tenir à l'égard du peuple Bulgare un langage tellement ordurier que la décence ne permet pas de le reproduire. Mais ce n'est pas tout. Le Général Vitalis avec toute sa suite se rendit encore au camp de l'escadron et là, après avoir devant les rangs des cavaliers proféré contre le peuple Bulgare les plus basses insultes et imprécations, il dégaîna et se mit à frapper tout soldat qu'il rencontra sur son chemin. Tous les assistants craignirent que les soldats ne traitassent leur indigne Général comme il le méritait. Mais, heureusement, les soldats étaient sans armes, et un officier Bulgare, voyant la rage du Général lui fit tomber le sabre de la main et le décida à retourner à Philippopoli. En partant, le Général se retourna encore vers tout le monde, et prenant des airs terribles, il menaça de punir de la manière la plus sévère quiconque oserait informer le public Bulgare de ces scènes.

Voilà quels actes insensés se commettent dans notre pays par l'homme même qui est chargé du maintien de l'ordre et de la discipline. Cette conduite révoltante du Général Vitalis n'est-elle pas de nature à nous faire perdre notre sang-froid et à précipiter le pays dans de sérieuses complications ?

Inclosure 2 in No. 177.

Extract from the "Maritza" of July 30, 1879.

A la suite des insultes prodiguées par Vitalis Pacha au peuple Bulgare devant les rangs d'un escadron indigène, et à des officiers Bulgares, qu'il traita de "vagabonds," en plein bureau d'Etat-Major, les Délégués de toute la Roumélie Orientale, réunis à Philippopoli pour la fixation des circonscriptions électorales, et considérés pour la plupart comme Membres de la future Assemblée Provinciale, ont remis à son Excellence le Prince-Gouverneur la protestation suivante :—

"À son Altesse le Prince Alexandre Vogorides, Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Les Soussignés, Représentants de toute la Roumélie Orientale, appelés par le Gouvernement à Philippopoli avec la mission de fixer les circonscriptions électorales pour les élections à la future Assemblée Provinciale, prennent la liberté de soumettre à votre Altesse la protestation suivante :—

"Le Général Vitalis, Commandant de la Milice et de la Gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale, dans un différend avec ses subordonnés, s'est permis de vilipendier dans des termes indécents, humiliants, injurieux, et provocateurs au plus haut point.

"Comme Représentants de toute la population de la Roumélie Orientale nous ne pouvons, ni pour notre part, ni pour celle du peuple que nous avons l'honneur de représenter, accepter cet affront fait, sans aucune justification, à ceux des sueurs desquels vit, et s'enrichit pour leur malheur, un fonctionnaire aussi élevé, et aux mains duquel est confié la garde de la vie, de l'honneur, et du bien de la nation.

"D'aussi graves écarts de la part d'un si haut personnage ne peuvent ne pas provoquer dans tout le pays une indignation générale, qui s'affirmera par l'élection de futurs Députés, et pourra mettre en question la réunion même de l'Assemblée Provinciale, ce qui serait un fait accablant aussi bien pour le Gouvernement que pour les intérêts du pays.

"Pour toutes ces raisons, nous protestons hautement tant en notre nom, qu'au nom du peuple, contre le Général Vitalis, et nous supplions votre Altesse de faire justice à notre protestation en garantissant notre future Assemblée Provinciale contre les excès de ce fonctionnaire, en le remplaçant par quelqu'un qui sache apprécier et sauvegarder sa propre dignité, qui sache respecter un peuple martyr, lequel, dans son ardent désir de vivre paisiblement, n'accepte les malheureuses décisions du Congrès de Berlin que dans la conviction que la Commission Européenne apporterait, par son esprit d'humanité, un soulagement à ses douleurs et à ses regrets.

"Nous avons, &c."

(Suivent les signatures des Représentants pour la fixation des circonscriptions électorales.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 177.

General Vitalis to the East Roumelian Commission.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,
MM. les Directeurs,

IL ne me conviendrait nullement de vous faire juges des attaques passionnées dont depuis quelque temps je suis l'objet, si ces attaques ne s'étalaient le long des colonnes d'un journal subventionné; c'est du moins l'opinion publique.

Tant que les articles de la "Maritza" n'ont pas dépassé le droit que toute feuille même salariée par un Gouvernement possède de critiquer une Administration publique, je n'ai pas voulu descendre à discuter avec la rédaction anonyme de ce journal dont personne n'ignore les inspirateurs.

C'est du reste à ces conseillers peu soucieux de l'avenir de leur pays qu'incombe la responsabilité de la ligne de conduite qu'ils lui ont tracée.

Mais aujourd'hui la "Maritza" arrive à publier des articles, des correspondances dans lesquels on me prête un langage que je n'ai jamais tenu, ou des paroles que l'on dénature à dessein.

Dans cette scène, racontée dans son numéro du $\frac{13}{25}$ Juillet, en langue Française, où il est dit que j'aurais menacé les Bulgares de 80,000 Turcs, il y aurait pour témoins: les Capitaines: Koluno, de l'armée Russe; M. Mercenier, de l'armée Autrichienne; M. le Lieutenant Georgevitch, Bulgare, un local et ses deux garçons; que l'on demande à ces personnes ce que j'ai dit, et on verra qu'au lieu de menaces absurdes, ce sont des conseils d'ami que j'ai tenu, et l'on comprendra alors l'étendue de l'infamie commise par le journal la "Maritza."

Je ne puis donc supporter plus longtemps comme membre du Gouvernement que l'on traîne l'un d'eux ainsi calomnié devant l'opinion publique.

Déjà la "Maritza," à propos des affaires de Carlovo, s'est permis des insinuations malveillantes à l'égard de l'honorable Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Un autre jour ce sera un autre Directeur qui aura déplu au Comité qui dirige cette feuille.

Je vous prie donc, Messieurs, de prendre en considération cette plainte que je dépose contre un journal qui passe pour être subventionné, plainte dont copie est envoyée à tous les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, pour que justice soit faite, et qu'un pareil scandale cesse au plutôt.

Le Général Commandant la Milice et la Gendarmerie,
(Signé) VITALIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 177.

Motion.

LA Commission Européenne déclare que la pétition publiée par le journal la "Maritza" à la troisième page de son numéro du $\frac{13}{25}$ Juillet, constitue de la part de ses auteurs, qui y prennent indûment la qualification de Député de la Roumélie Orientale (1) une usurpation de titre; (2) une usurpation de fonctions.

En effet, l'Article 13 du Règlement Electoral formant annexe au Chapitre V du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, a limité strictement les attributions de la Commission Spéciale chargé de donner au Gouverneur-Général son avis sur la formation des circonscriptions électorales pour les premières élections provinciales. Nul membre de cette Commission n'était donc autorisé comme tel à faire de la politique en critiquant le Traité de Berlin, et en protestant contre le maintien à la tête de la milice locale d'un officier général nommé par Sa Majesté le Sultan, dans l'exercice Constitutionnel de ses droits.

La Commission Européenne, en faisant cette déclaration, regrette que son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général ait reçu la pétition illégale ci-dessus visée.

No. 178.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, July 30, 1879.*

THE motion which I submitted at the last meeting of the Commission on the subject of the interpretation of Article 21 of the Statute being open to the objection that it required the production of official statistical proofs of the facts therein alleged, the French Commissioner undertook to draw up an "opinion" in the sense of my motion, but in which the above difficulty would be surmounted.

I have now the satisfaction of inclosing to your Lordship the opinion in question, which, in the form of a resolution to be officially communicated to the Governor-General, was this day unanimously adopted by the Commission, and which, therefore, under the rules adopted by the Commission on the instant, acquires an obligatory character so far as the action of the Governor-General in the matter of appointments to public offices is concerned.

The Russian Commissioner showed a reluctance to be left in a minority in which he might not even have been joined by his Italian colleague, and, therefore, at his repeated request, slight verbal alterations, in no way reducing the force of the opinion given, were adopted in order to enable him to give an adhesion which rendered the vote unanimous, and binding on the Governor-General.

The Greek petition will not be answered, because the Commission cannot recognize the representative character of the petitioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Opinion of the Commission respecting Appointments to Public Offices in Eastern Roumelia.

SON Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale paraît avoir compris l'Article 24 du Statut Organique dans ce sens qu'il ne devait confier les principaux postes administratifs et judiciaires des différentes circonscriptions qu'à des candidats choisis parmi la nationalité dont se compose la majorité des habitants de ces circonscriptions.

Cette interprétation ne répond pas à la pensée des rédactions du Statut. En effet, si elle était strictement suivie, elle aurait pour conséquence nécessaire d'écarter complétement des fonctions publiques les citoyens appartenant aux groupes ethnographiques qui ne forment nulle part la majorité de la population (tels que les Arméniens et les Israélites) de léser les Grecs et les Musulmans, et enfin, de créer au profit de l'élément Bulgare un monopole absolument contraire à l'esprit de l'Article 24, dont les deux premiers alinéas sont ainsi conçus:—

"Les indigènes de la Roumélie Orientale, sans distinction de races et de croyances religieuses, jouissent des mêmes droits.

"Les emplois, honneurs, et fonctions publiques leur sont également accessibles, suivant leurs aptitudes, leur mérite, et leur capacité."

Le premier membre de phrase de l'Article 21 imposait donc au Gouverneur-Général le devoir de choisir, pour tous les emplois indistinctement, les candidats les plus dignes dans le sens de l'Article 24, sauf à les employer ensuite là où ils eussent le mieux cadré avec la majorité de la population (deuxième membre de phrase de l'Article 21). Mais cela posé en principe, la Commission reconnaît en fait que lorsque M. le Gouverneur-Général est venu dans le pays, il n'y a trouvé, pour les postes auxquels il devait pourvoir, qu'un nombre très-insuffisant de candidats ayant des antécédents administratifs et des titres acquis à un emploi déterminé.

Il a donc manqué le plus souvent d'un critérium sûr pour découvrir le plus digne. Dans ces conditions, le plus simple eût été qu'il fît à chacune des communautés de la province, dans les emplois publics, une part à peu près proportionnelle à son importance numérique, et qu'après avoir trié sur cette base les candidats les plus dignes, en se servant pour cette opération des éléments, d'ailleurs très-insuffisants, d'information qu'il possédait, il répartît les fonctionnaires par lui choisis de manière à contenter le plus possible la majorité dans les différentes circonscriptions.

Au reste, il convient de tenir compte au Gouverneur-Général des difficultés de la

tâche, ainsi que des lacunes que présentent les statistiques concernant la population de la Roumélie Orientale; et, comme un grand nombre de nominations faites jusqu'ici ne sont que provisoires, il est permis d'espérer que dans un avenir prochain les minorités pourront obtenir quelques-unes des réparations auxquelles elles ont droit, d'après une juste interprétation du Statut. La Commission estime en outre que pour ce qui concerne l'élément Musulman, l'Administration provinciale doit tenir équitablement compte des emprés. Un grand nombre de ceux-ci rentrent dans ce moment, et dès lors le corps administratif et judiciaire du pays ne répondroit pas à son objet, s'il étoit formé sans aucun égard pour cette portion de la population.

No. 179.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 129.) *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

IN the inclosed leading article the "Maritza" gives credit to the local Government for its humane treatment of Turkish refugees, whom "a consciousness of their crimes, the suggestions of a barbarous policy, or the preaching of fanatical Imams had induced to leave their homes in mid-winter, on the approach of an enemy who had solemnly promised them aid and protection, and who kept his word without consideration even for the element which he had come to rescue from the Turkish yoke."

The article confirms the fact that male and female refugees are searched for arms on their arrival at Philippopolis, without stopping to inquire under what Article of the Organic Statute the Bulgarian part of the population alone is allowed, not only to possess arms, but to assemble in masses for military exercise?

It also repeats the statement so frequently made in respect to all refugees returning to the province, that there are many great criminals among them, on whose return, for instance, to Eski Zaghra, even the Emperor Alexander himself could not protect them against the vengeance, more especially of Bulgarian women.

The article argues, in conclusion, that since bands of refugees, among whom such criminals are to be found, can only be reinstated in the localities that have suffered most during the late events under the protection of bayonets, it is first of all necessary to render the militia efficient by removing General Vitalis from his present command.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No 180.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 130. Confidential.) *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

A SEMI-OFFICIAL discussion arose at the meeting of the Commission yesterday on the subject of the assumption of the title of "Highness" by Aleko Pasha.

Baron de Ring had originally added to his motion concerning the Bulgarian protest or petition against General Vitalis, a paragraph in which the Governor-General was reminded that he had no right to such a title; but, at the urgent request of Prince Tzeretelew, that paragraph was withdrawn before the Commission met.

The French Commissioner, however, brought forward the question "en dehors du compte-rendu," and stated that unless the Ottoman Commissioner, on behalf of the Porte, privately advised the Governor-General to abandon the use of the title of Highness, to which the Ottoman Commissioners themselves attested, he had no right whatever, he would consider it his duty to bring the subject formally before the Commission.

Prince Tzeretelew endeavoured to show that the title which was applied to the Governor-General in Bulgaria was the Russian title applied to Princes who had not the rank of "Highness," and to which the German title of "Durchlaucht" was nearly equivalent. He also alleged that he was not aware that the Governor-General had ever assumed, in any official document in the French language, the title of "Altesse."

I was able to show, in reply, that in the heading of the French official translation of the Firman appointing Aleko Pasha Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, he had been styled "Son Altesse."

It is, moreover, notorious that he is addressed as "Votre Altesse" by the Bulgarian members of the Council when they address him in French, and that the use of that title is a sure means of obtaining his favour.

M. de Kallay spoke on the political significance of such an unwarranted title, and urged that it would be a neglect of duty on the part of the Commission to allow to pass unnoticed a practice which might have the effect of inducing the Bulgarian population of this province to believe that they are governed by a vassal Prince instead of by a Governor-General representing the Sultan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 181.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 130.) *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the lithographed minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia held on the 28th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 75, tenue le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Juillet*, 1879 (10 *Chaban*, 1296), *à la Délégation d'Allemagne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. DE BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à deux heures de l'après-midi.

Le compte rendu de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

L'ordre du jour appelle la suite de la discussion de la réponse à faire à la lettre adressée le $\frac{4}{16}$ Juin, au Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne par son Excellence Aleko Pacha.

Le Baron de Ring dépose le projet de déclaration qui suit :—

"La Commission Européenne déclare ce qui suit :—

"1. Dans l'économie du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, les postes et

les télégraphes ne constituent pas des services provinciaux, mais des services Impériaux (Article 19, pr. al.), et c'est pour cette raison qu'ils n'ont été rattachés à aucune des Directions des services administratifs provinciaux.

"Il suit de ce principe qu'en Roumélie Orientale les employés des postes et des télégraphes sont des employés non de la province mais de l'Empire.

"2. Les Traités, Conventions, Lois et Règlements qui régissent les postes et les télégraphes dans l'Empire Ottoman s'appliquent à la province. Il en est de même des ordres généraux de service émanant de l'Administration Centrale des Postes et des Télégraphes à Constantinople (Article 19, loc. c.; Article 20).

"3. Le Statut a mis les frais d'entretien et d'exploitation des postes et des télégraphes à la charge de la province, en lui attribuant en échange la moitié des recettes postales et la totalité des recettes télégraphiques qui ne proviennent pas de la correspondance internationale (Article 198).

"Comme ce partage des recettes doit être entouré de garanties pour la province, il résulte implicitement de l'Article 198 que l'Administration des finances provinciales exerce sur l'Administration postale et télégraphique comprise dans les limites de la Roumélie Orientale un droit d'inspection et de contrôle.

"4. En disposant qu'au point de vue du service et de la discipline les fonctionnaires et employés des postes et des télégraphes relèvent du Gouverneur-Général comme représentant du pouvoir central (Article 19, al. 2), le Statut a fait du Gouverneur-Général le Chef des services postaux et télégraphiques dans la province qui lui est confiée; d'où la conséquence que le Gouverneur-Général doit présider à l'organisation de ces services, en diriger et surveiller le fonctionnement, et exercer le pouvoir disciplinaire sur les employés.

"5. Comme cependant les intérêts pécuniaires de la province seraient compromis et que l'autorité du Gouverneur-Général sur les employés des postes et des télégraphes serait rendue illusoire si le dit Gouverneur-Général n'exerçait aucune influence sur la distribution et la formation des bureaux de même que sur la nomination et l'avancement des employés, il convient d'interpréter les Articles 19 et 198 combinés dans ce sens que l'Administration Centrale des Postes à Constantinople doit s'entendre avec le Gouverneur-Général pour fixer le nombre et la composition des bureaux postaux et télégraphiques, pour créer ou supprimer des lignes, et enfin pour nommer et promouvoir les employés.

"6. Les employés des postes et des télégraphes en Roumélie Orientale étant des employés de l'Empire, sont placés, en ce qui concerne leur rang hiérarchique et leurs émoluments, dans les mêmes conditions que les employés correspondants en résidence dans les autres provinces."

Le Commissaire de France croit utile d'informer ses collègues qu'avant de rédiger le projet qu'il vient de leur communiquer, il a eu un entretien avec M. Vulcovitch, Directeur des Travaux Publics de la Roumélie Orientale. Cet entretien lui a permis de se rendre compte des idées du Directoire Rouméliote sur les questions en litige et de formuler les siennes de manière à dissiper toute incertitude sur l'interprétation à donner aux dispositions du Statut Organique relatives aux postes et télégraphes.

Après un court débat la Commission passe au vote des Articles.

Le Président met aux voix l'Article 1.

Cinq Commissaires votent pour.

Le Délégué d'Italie vote contre.

Le Prince Tzeretelew ne peut accepter l'Article. Il considère que le service des postes et télégraphes est un de ceux qui, d'après l'Article 60, ont été tacitement attribués au Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Avant de mettre aux voix l'Article 2, *le Président*, sur la demande d'un Commissaire, explique que par "ordres généraux" on doit comprendre les instructions qui règlent dans tout l'Empire Ottoman, d'une manière uniforme, certaines matières des services postaux et télégraphiques.

L'Article 2, mis aux voix, est adopté par six Commissaires.

Le Chevalier Vernoni s'abstient.

Le Président met aux voix le premier alinéa de l'Article 3.

La Commission adopte à l'unanimité.

Le Président met aux voix le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 3.

Cinq Commissaires l'acceptent.

Les Délégués d'Italie et de Russie s'abstiennent.

Le Président met aux voix l'ensemble de l'Article 3.

Cinq Commissaires votent pour.

Les Délégués d'Italie et de Russie s'abstiennent.

Le Président met aux voix l'Article 4.

Cinq Commissaires l'acceptent.

Les Délégués d'Italie et de Russie s'abstiennent.

Le Président met aux voix l'Article 5.

Cinq Commissaires votent pour.

M. Vernoni vote contre.

Le Prince Tzeretelew ne peut accepter cet Article. Il s'étonne de ce qu'on ne reconnaisse pas au Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale le droit de nommer lui-même les employés des postes et télégraphes, alors que le Statut Organique a conféré à ce même dignitaire le droit de choisir les officiers de la milice et de la gendarmerie jusqu'au grade de Capitaine inclusivement.

Le Président met aux voix l'Article 6.

Cinq Commissaires l'acceptent.

Le Chevalier Vernoni s'abstient.

Le Prince Tzeretelew vote contre.

Le Président met aux voix l'ensemble du Projet.

Cinq Commissaires votent pour.

Le Commissaire d'Italie vote contre, car il considère le Projet non comme une interprétation du Statut Organique, mais comme le développement d'un système nouveau.

Le Prince Tzeretelew, comme son collègue d'Italie, ne peut accepter la déclaration. Il pense que l'interprétation donnée aux Articles 19 et 198 par la majorité des Commissaires n'est pas en rapport avec les idées dont ceux-ci se sont inspirés pendant l'élaboration du Statut Organique: "Pour moi," dit-il, "je ne découvre dans aucun des Articles du Statut le droit pour la Sublime Porte de s'ingérer dans la nomination des employés de la province et dans l'organisation des postes et télégraphes."

La Commission prie M. de Braunschweig de vouloir bien porter à la connaissance du Gouverneur-Général la déclaration adoptée par elle.

Sur la proposition de l'un de ses membres, la Commission établit que désormais son Président sera autorisé à communiquer à son Excellence Aleko Pacha les comptes-rendus qui sembleront de nature à intéresser particulièrement ce dignitaire.

Sur un désir exprimé par M. Vernoni, *M. de Braunschweig* déclare qu'il ne manquera pas de communiquer à son Excellence Aleko Pacha les comptes-rendus des deux séances dans lesquelles la Commission s'est occupée de la question des postes et des télégraphes.

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur la motion déposée, à la dernière séance, par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne au sujet d'une pétition adressée, le 13 Juin, par la Démogérontie de Philippopoli à la Commission Européenne.

M. Rozet donne lecture du compte-rendu de la dite pétition rédigé par M. Léon:—

"*Compte-rendu de la Pétition No. 96.*

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Juillet*, 1879.

"La Commission ayant jugé nécessaire, dans le cours de ses travaux, de sauvegarder les intérêts des minorités leur a, disent les Pétitionnaires, accordé certains droits par le Statut Organique, qu'elle a élaboré, et que Sa Majesté le Sultan a confirmé.

"Mais dès le premier jour de la promulgation du Statut, ajoutent-ils, le droit de l'emploi de leur langue a été violé; le Gouverneur à qui ils remirent une protestation contre cette violation leur répondit qu'elle n'avait eu lieu que par mégarde.

"Quelques jours plus tard, continuent les Pétitionnaires, malgré tous les droits qui leur sont réservés par le Statut, et contre l'esprit et la lettre de ce Statut, tous les Directeurs, le personnel des Tribunaux, celui de l'Administration et les officiers ont été choisis exclusivement parmi les habitants appartenant à une seule race. Une nouvelle protestation fut remise au Gouverneur-Général. Cette distribution partiale des emplois de la province n'a aucune raison d'être, car les personnes composant la race exclue ne sont pas au-dessous de celles qui forment la majorité. Les Pétitionnaires croient même qu'une comparaison ne tournerait pas à l'avantage des premières.

"Les Pétitionnaires, en portant à la connaissance de la Commission les démarches qu'ils ont faites, protestent auprès d'elle, au nom de la population Grecque, contre ces violations du Statut Organique, et réclament le bénéfice des droits que la loi leur a octroyés.

"Comme la Commission a élaboré le Statut Organique, ajoutent-ils, et qu'en

restant ici elle a sans doute mission d'en surveiller la stricte application, ils ont recours à elle et ils espèrent que leurs justes réclamations ne seront pas rejetées.

(Signé) "Les Démogérontes (neuf signatures).

"Nota.—L'original est en Français."

M. Michell dit qu'il est de notoriété publique que l'Article 21 du Statut n'a pas été bien compris par son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général; la manière dont cet Article est appliqué en est une preuve.

Parmi les Directeurs et les Préfets on ne compte pas un seul fonctionnaire appartenant aux deux minorités très-importantes de la province—les Turcs et les Grecs. Sur quarante-deux Baillis, Secrétaires, et Conseillers de Préfecture déjà nommés, on trouve trente-quatre Bulgares, quatre Turcs, et quatre Grecs. Dans la milice et la gendarmerie, tous les officiers sont Bulgares ou étrangers, à l'exception de deux Turcs et d'un Grec. Dans les Tribunaux départementaux il y a vingt-deux Magistrats, presque tous Bulgares; dans les Tribunaux cantonaux il y a quarante Juges Bulgares, trois Grecs, et quatre Turcs. En outre, les seize représentants d'arrondissement faisant partie de la Commission chargée récemment de donner son avis sur les circonscriptions électorales étaient tous Bulgares.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique estime donc que l'Article 21 n'est pas appliqué d'une manière conforme aux idées des Gouvernements Européens, qui n'ont pas voulu créer de ce côté des Balkans une Bulgarie, mais bien une Roumélie Orientale. "Les Bulgares de la nouvelle province," ajoute-t-il, "courent, d'ailleurs, en se partageant ici tous les postes administratifs, grand risque de nuire au développement économique de leur race, car ils renoncent par-là même aux carrières industrielles ou commerciales. Je voudrais que la Commission donnât une interprétation sérieuse de l'Article 21."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il ne comprend guère l'utilité d'une discussion n'ayant pas pour base des chiffres officiels incontestables. Pour affirmer que, dans les nominations des fonctionnaires Roumeliotes, la balance n'a pas été tenue égale entre toutes les nationalités de la province, il faudrait avoir des statistiques exactes. Tant que la Commission ne s'appuiera pas sur des documents de ce genre, elle ne pourra prendre que des décisions fort vagues. La nationalité des seize Bulgares nommés, par voie d'élection, membres de la Commission chargée de donner son avis sur les circonscriptions électorales, n'a du reste aucun rapport avec l'application par le Gouverneur-Général de l'Article 21.

Après une longue discussion à laquelle prennent part tous les membres de la Commission, celle-ci charge le Baron de Ring de présenter, à la prochaine séance, un exposé de ses idées sur les Articles 21 et 24 du Statut Organique.

Le Commissaire de France donne lecture de la traduction suivante d'une protestation adressée à son Excellence Aleko Pacha et reproduite par le journal "Maritza:"—

"A Son Altesse le Prince A. Vogoridès, Gouverneur de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Nous soussignés, Députés de la Roumélie Orientale tout entière, appelés par le Gouvernement Central à Philippopoli pour organiser les colléges électoraux des futurs Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale, prenons la liberté de protester devant votre Altesse comme il suit:—

"1. Attendu que le Général Vitalis, Chef de la Gendarmerie et de la Milice de la Roumélie Orientale, s'est permis, dans une querelle avec ses subalternes, d'injurier sans gêne, dans les termes les plus bas, les plus vils, et les plus menaçants le peuple de la Roumélie Orientale;

"2. Attendu que en notre qualité de Députés de toute la population de la Roumélie Orientale nous ne pouvons tolérer ni personnellement, ni au nom de la nation tout entière que nous avons l'honneur de représenter, une injure lancée sans aucune raison justifiable contre ceux de la sueur desquels vit et s'enrichit, pour leur malheur, un chef placé en un rang élevé, et aux mains duquel est confiée la garde de la vie, des biens et de l'honneur de la nation;

"3. Attendu qu'un acte aussi inconsidéré, commis par un personage aussi haut placé, peut faire naître un mécontentement général dans tout le pays et exercer une influence sur l'élection des futurs Représentants à la Chambre, et par suite paralyser la création de l'Assemblée Nationale Provinciale, chose qui peut être très-préjudiciable pour le Gouvernement du pays ainsi que pour les intérêts nationaux;

"4. Contre tout cela, nous, personnellement et au nom de la nation, protestons solennellement et prions votre Altesse de vouloir bien nous donner une satisfaction;

et, en vue de garantir notre future Assemblée Provinciale des procédés arbitraires de ce fonctionnaire, nous vous demandons de le faire remplacer par un autre qui sache au moins apprécier et honorer sa place et faire preuve de respect et de compassion pour une nation martyre, nation qui, pour le seul désir de vivre en paix, a accepté les dispositions gênantes du Traité de Berlin, avec la conviction que la Commission Internationale apporterait par son esprit d'humanité un soulagement à ses douleurs et à ses regrets.

"Nous avons l'honneur d'être, de votre Altesse, les plus humbles serviteurs.

"Suivent les signatures des députés des colléges de la Bulgarie du Sud.

"*Plovdiv, le* 12 *Juillet*, 1879."

Le Baron de Ring dépose ensuite la motion que voici:

"*Motion.*

"La Commission Européenne déclare que la pétition publiée par le journal la "Maritza," à la troisième page de son numéro du $\frac{13}{25}$ Juillet, constitue de la part de ses auteurs, qui y prennent indûment la qualification de députés de la Roumélie Orientale:—

"1. Une usurpation de titre;

"2. Une usurpation de fonctions.

"En effet, l'Article 13 du Règlement Électoral, formant annexe au Chapitre V du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, a limité strictement les attributions de la Commission chargée de donner au Gouverneur-Général de la province son avis sur la formation des circonscriptions électorales pour les premières élections provinciales. Nul membre de cette Commission n'était donc autorisé, comme tel, à faire de la politique en critiquant le Traité, et en protestant contre le maintien à la tête de la milice locale d'un Officier Général nommé par Sa Majesté le Sultan dans l'exercice constitutionel de ses droits.

"La Commission Européenne, en faisant cette déclaration, regrette que son Excellence M. le Gouverneur-Général ait reçu la pétition illégale ci-dessus."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 30 Juillet:—

1. La continuation du débat sur la motion déposée à la soixante-quatorzième séance par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne au sujet d'une pétition adressée, le 13 Juin, par la Démogérontie de Philippopoli à la Commission Européenne;

2. La motion du Baron de Ring.

La séance est levée à 5 heures du soir.

(Signé) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.
CURIEL.

No. 182.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 131. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

A VERY great change is noticeable in the attitude of the German Delegate at the meetings of the Commission. His vote has hitherto been most frequently given on the side of the Russian Commissioner, and he has in many cases indirectly supported the latter by abstaining from giving a vote at all. Since, however, the Com-

mission has recommenced its labours under the recent instructions issued to its several members, M. de Braunschweig has been in resolute opposition to Prince Tzeretelew on every question that has been under discussion.

He observed to me yesterday that his adhesion to the views of the majority in the matter of the interpretation of Article 21 of the Organic Statute must have caused much surprise to Prince Tzeretelew.

The latter is now only to a slight extent supported by the Italian Commissioner, who has shown much personal irritation at the decision taken by the Commission in the matter of the posts and telegraphs in this province.

I think it right to report to your Lordship that, in speaking to me confidentially on this subject, M. Vernoni asserted in a very emphatic manner that the Ottoman Government were endeavouring to regain the power and position which had been taken from them in this province, and to prepare the ground for its reoccupation by their military forces.

This assumption may possibly be the present bond of union between the Russian and Italian Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 183.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 61 and 70 of the 14th July, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a Report addressed to General Vitalis by the officer in command of the militia sent on the 14th ultimo to Buyuk-Derbend.

The Report states that all the villages through which the detachment passed between Harmanly and Buyuk-Derbend were very quiet and orderly, but that the latter village had been entirely deserted in the month of June last, owing to a Russian officer having warned the inhabitants that they would be massacred on the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

Owing to that alarm the villagers in question had followed the Russian troops and had sought refuge in the district between Bourgas and Varna.

The only foundation for the alarm which had compelled General Vitalis, in consequence of a telegram from the Prefect of Slivno, to send a detachment of militia to Buyuk-Derbend, appears to be that a few armed Turks had singly crossed over into the province, while others had visited "Turkish territory in order to fetch arms."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Report on alleged Troubles at Buyuk-Derbend.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Juillet*, 1879.

SELON ordres de votre Excellence, en date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet, 1879, je suis parti de Philippopoli avec deux compagnies de mon bataillon, formant un effectif de 516 hommes et cinq officiers.

Le $\frac{2}{14}$ Juillet j'entrai dans Harmanly, et le lendemain je me dirigeai vers Kyzyl-Aghatch, en traversant les villages suivantes:—

Salmintcho, Tekké, Saosari, Gudular, Knourleni, Kavakly, Sinaply, Hassan Beyli.

Le $\frac{5}{17}$ Juillet je suis entré dans le village de Kyzyl-Agatch, où j'ai trouvé la troisième compagnie de la 8ème Droudjine de Yamboli.

Le jour suivant, après avoir pris cette compagnie, commandée par le Lieutenant Bontoucharoff, et accompagné du Préfet de Kyzyl-Agatch, du Chef de Police nommé Yordanoff, nous sommes partis pour les villages suivants:—

Deirmenderé, Ouzoun Beghei, Kourt-Oghlan, Kutchuk Dervent, Elmenli, Buyuk Boyalyk, Derékeui, Kaledonik, Kyzyldja Klissé. Sur notre route nous n'avons

rencontré personne, pas le moindre Bashi-Bazouk. Le pays était fort tranquille et en ordre. Malgré cela, le Préfet, le Maître de Police, les Sous-Lieutenant Bontoucharoff et moi nous avons décidé de laisser vingt et un soldats dans chacun des villages suivants:—

Ouzoun Beghli, Kutchuk Dervent, Derékeui, Kyzyldja Klissé, et soixante-seize hommes à Pachakeui, sous le commandement du Commandant de la compagnie.

Nous avons appris que les habitants de Buyuk Dervent s'étaient réfugiés au mois de Juin à l'époque de la rentrée des Russes du côté de Bourgas.

Un officier Russe leur aurait dit, paraît-il, que, l'armée Russe partie, ils seraient tous massacrés et qu'il n'y avait plus aucune garantie pour eux, qu'il leur donnerait des sauf-conduits pour leur permettre de quitter le pays.

Ils ont alors suivi l'armée Russe, et se trouvent dans le pays entre Varna et Bourgas. Quel est le nom de cet officier nous l'ignorons, et nous n'avons pu le connaître.

Je ne plaçai point de soldats à Buyuk Dervent parce que le village était complétement abandonné et qu'il eût été difficile de faire approvisionner la troupe qui eût campé dans cette localité.

D'après la lettre du Commandant de la 8ème Droudjine de Yamboli j'ai appris que quelques Turcs armés venaient individuellement faire des excursions sur notre territoire, que d'autres se rendaient sur le territoire Turc pour prendre des armes et revenir ensuite.

Je donnai l'ordre formel aux officiers placés dans les points que je viens d'indiquer de saisir tout individu porteur d'armes et de faire feu sur le premier qui se servirait de ses armes, en un mot de ne rien provoquer, d'attendre, mais de répondre par la force à toute démonstration violente.

En général, dans le district de Kyzyl Agatch tout est actuellement fort tranquille, et je pense qu'il suffirait de la présence d'une compagnie pour maintenir cet ordre.

J'ai jugé nécessaire de placer une compagnie dans le district voisin de Kavakly, et que cette compagnie serait prise de la Droudjine de Rasskeui, et je pense que les troupes placées sous mes ordres peuvent rentrer à Philippopoli, et, si cela était possible, par Yamboli et chemin de fer, vu le mauvais état de leurs chaussures en général et l'état maladif de quelques-uns.

Le Capitaine Commandant la 1ère Droudjine,
(Signé) RAITCHO NICOLOFF.

Pour copie conforme:
Le Lieutenant-Colonel, Chef d'Etat-Major,
(Signé) G. DE TOUSTAIN.

No. 184.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

THE inclosed extract from the "Philippopolis" gives an account of a review of the local militia held on the 27th instant by General Vitalis, who issued on that occasion an order of the day congratulating the troops on their good bearing and their entire discipline under arms.

The General called upon his troops, in the same address, to turn a deaf ear to the muddle-headed politicians who were trifling with the future of this province, and who, actuated by paltry, personal ambition, were endeavouring to lead it on a path of adventure, without hesitating even to employ falsehood and calumny.

The General urged that those politicians were only supported by Committees that were revolutionary and without consistency, whereas he was backed by the Powers of Europe which had created the province, and the desire of which was that Eastern Roumelia should be prosperous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 185.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 134.) *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a list of the persons appointed by the Governor-General to act as a Commission, under Article 13, Appendix 1 to Chapter V, of the Organic Statute for the purpose of advising the Governor-General in the matter of the establishment of electoral districts in this province.

Your Lordship will observe that, with the exception of M. Schmidt, of the aged and almost imbecile Turkish Mollah, of the Greek Archbishop, of the Armenian Metropolitan (an ecclesiatic of no independence), and of the Jewish Rabbi, whose opinion is always at the disposal of the majority, all the other members of the Commission (viz., twenty), are Bulgarians by race.

Under Russian influence, care has been taken that the members of the Administrative Councils by whom the "arrondissements actually existing" (Article 13, above cited), should be composed of Bulgarians, and consequently the sixteen representatives sent to Philippopolis were all of that race.

The Committee appointed by the Commission, and of which a list is likewise inclosed, who, therefore, naturally composed of five Bulgarians, to whom the Mollah was added in the evident hope of saving appearances.

I have not yet succeeded in obtaining the Report of the Commission, which was drawn up on the basis of the labours of the Committee, but I have reason to believe that the electoral districts have been arranged in such a manner as to exclude all possibility of their being represented in the National Assembly by any citizens of Eastern Roumelia who are not Bulgarian by race.

The Greek Archbishop made a feeble attempt to stem the Bulgarian current, but, finding that his opposition was in vain, he declined to attend the last meeting of the Commission.

He has, however, been induced to sign its Protocol, with the addition of some words in Greek signifying that he had given his signature in good faith as regards the contents of the Protocol.

M. Schmidt endeavoured to protect the interests of the Greeks of the district of Kavakly, but I believe the Commission have, nevertheless, divided the ten principal Greek villages, with a population of 15,000 to 18,000, into three detached groups, and added them to electoral districts in which the Bulgarians predominate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 185.

Names of Commissioners named under Article 13, *Appendix* 1 *to Chapter V of the Organic Statute for the purpose of defining the Electoral Districts in Eastern Roumelia.*

M. Chrestowicz, Secretary-General.
M. Vulcovitch, Director of Public Works.
M. Grueff, Director of Instruction.
M. Schmidt, Director of Finance.
Emiz Effendi, Mollah of Philippopolis.
The Bulgarian Metropolitan.
The Greek Metropolitan.
The Armenian Metropolitan.
The Rabbi.
And sixteen Bulgarian Representatives of Administrative Councils.
Committee elected by the above Commission.
Emiz Effendi, Mollah.
The Bulgarian Metropolitan.
M. Grueff, Director of Public Instruction.
MM. Boyadjoglou, Astardjieff, and Mihailovitch, Representatives of Administrative Councils.

No. 186.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 136.) *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

THE local Government has been informed, by telegraph, that a Mussulman officer of police, a Bulgarian official of the Department of Finance, and a Bulgarian gendarme, were assassinated a few days ago between Aidos and Karnabad by a robber band which had descended from the mountains and had cut off the heads of these unfortunate men.

A company of militia has been sent in pursuit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 187.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 137.) *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 4th July, I have the honour to report, on the strength of information supplied by the Secretary-General, that the thirteen Turks condemned to hard labour in Siberia by a Russian military Tribunal at Slivno, have been surrendered by the Russian authorities, and will be tried anew by provincial Judges.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 188.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 138.) *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Secretary-General has stated to me, with reference to the subject of my despatch No. of the 2nd July, that the inhabitants of Kotel have not paid the contribution of 35,000 fr. which General Stolipine had ordered to be levied upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 189.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 139.) *Philippopolis, August* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 136, Consular, of the 4th June, and No. 83, of the 7th July, I have the honour to report that the Russian Consulate-General in this city has recently been engaged in the distribution of ecclesiastical vestments, church vessels, and copies of the Scriptures and of the Liturgy in the old Slavonic language used by the Russian Church.

I am informed, from a Russian source, that the two pages of the Russian Liturgy which contain the prayers for the Imperial family of Russia have been cut out of the copies thus supplied to the Bulgarian churches by the Russian Synod, assisted by private donors.

The number of churches amongst which this distribution has been made is sixty, but I am informed that in the department of Philippopolis alone there are altogether

120 Bulgarian churches which have been entirely destroyed during the last troubl with everything they contained in the shape of vessels, vestments, and books.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 190.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 2, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 53 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to explain that the reservation made by the Turkish Commissioner in respect to the conditions under which Ottoman troops could be called into this province was accepted by the Commission as a matter of course.

Having, however, partly decyphered your Lordship's telegram No. 52, I asked the Commission at our last sitting whether the reservation in question had been unanimously accepted, and the answer I obtained was in the affirmative.

I have requested that my question and the answer thereto should be inserted in the "compte-rendu."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 191.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 142.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 2, 1879.

THE inclosed extract from the "Maritza," reproduced this day in the local Greek organ, states that the Governor-General had promised the Representatives of the (Bulgarian) people that "never, and under no circumstances, would the detestable Turkish flag, under which the Bulgarian nation had groaned during four centuries, be hoisted on any part of the soil of Eastern Roumelia."

The Governor-General, to whom I spoke of a rumour to that effect, indignantly denied its truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Extract from the "Maritza."

Philippopoli, July [illegible] *August* 2, 1879.

EN parlant du drapeau Bulgare qui flottait sur le pont Stolipine, et qui vient d'être amené par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, la "Maritza" fait les réflections suivantes:—

"Le peuple a été furieusement indigné en apprenant de la bouche de ses Représentants l'inébranlable résolution de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, et il ne s'est calmé que lorsque ces mêmes Représentants l'ont assuré que jamais, et dans aucun cas, le détestable drapeau Turc, sous lequel la nation Bulgare a tant gémi pendant quatre siècles, ne sera arboré en aucun point du territoire de la Roumélie Orientale."

No. 192.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 143.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 2, 1879.

THE inclosed leading article in the Greek organ, published this day, reflects on the illegal conduct of the persons who recently signed a protest against General Vitalis in the name of the Bulgarian nation.

It also reproduces part of an article which has appeared in the Bulgarian sheet of the "Maritza," calling upon all Bulgarians to see that there should be no electoral districts formed in which a foreign element predominates.

The "Philippoupolis" is, with good reason, alarmed at the inevitable result of the elections that will take place in the electoral districts, as defined under circumstances which I reported to your Lordship by telegraph on the ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 193.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 145. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 2, 1879.

BARON DE RING has stated to me, confidentially, that he has "timidly" suggested to his Government the necessity of reopening the question of a mixed occupation of this province.

He appears to share the conviction of most of the other Commissioners, to the effect that energetic measures should be adopted to arrest Aleko Pasha on the course which he is at present pursuing in disregard of the will and intentions of nearly all the great Powers of Europe.

An occupation of the province by Turkish troops might not, in Baron de Ring's opinion, be desirable in the present enfeebled political condition of the Ottoman Empire, which requires to be "nursed" by Europe.

The French Commissioner thinks that Aleko Pasha might be forced to resign before the Provincial Assembly meets, and that the present feeble Secretary-General might be replaced by a more efficient person, under similar pressure.

In my own humble opinion a sure means to obtain so desirable an end to the misrule of Aleko Pasha would be to summon him to disband and disarm the gymnasts; for, as he would certainly not be equal to so difficult a task, his resignation, or flight from the province, would inevitably follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 194.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 146.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a French translation of a letter which has appeared in the Bulgarian organ, and which bears the signature of an Aide-de-camp attached to the Governor-General.

The object of the writer is to show the necessity of maintaining a strong force of militia and the uselessness of the gendarmerie which is now being formed under difficulties to which the letter in question appears to afford an index.

General Vitalis has very properly considered such an act as that of publicly reflecting on local military arrangements, and particularly in terms which have a certain political object, as a reprehensible breach of discipline on the part of the Governor-

General's Aide-de-camp, and has consequently placed that officer under arrest for a fortnight to the great displeasure of Aleko Pasha and M. Christovitch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 194.

Extract from the "Maritza."

(Traduction.)

LE plus ardent désir que ressent en ces jours le cœur de tous nos compatriotes est et sera celui de défendre la liberté que nous a donnée le noble sang versé par la grande nation Russe. Il ne faut pas beaucoup d'esprit pour que chacun reconnaisse combien nous coûte, à nous aussi, cette liberté. Souvenez-vous des massacres de Batak, des horreurs de Péroushtitza; voyez les ruines de Zaghra, Kalofer, Panagurichté, Adjar, Chissoura, Chipka, Elenh, Bebrovo; entendez les pleurs continuels des veuves de Carlovo; voyez combien de petits enfants innocents se trouvent aujourd'hui sans maison, sans toits, sans pères, sans mères, et sans une croûte de pain; enfin souvenez-vous des prisons, des pendaisons, couteaux, des fouets et vous verrez que de sang et que de pleurs nous coûte cette liberté. Comment et par quels moyens pouvons-nous garder ce dépôt sacré que Dieu et le Czar Russe ont donné à notre patrie qui a tant souffert? Un des grands moyens qui servent à défendre la liberté de chaque nation de ses ennemis à l'intérieur comme à l'extérieur est pour sûr et sans contredit l'armée.

Je ne parlerai donc que de l'armée. Il ne vous faut point des preuves pour vous convaincre que nulle Puissance, petite ou grande, ne peut exister sans une armée. De même l'armée est d'une nécessité absolue pour le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité intérieure. Les grandes et formidables armées qu'entretiennent les nations les plus puissantes en sont une preuve éclatante.

Regardons ces nations et pensons à nous.

Puisque de telles nations, grandes et fortes, qui vivent depuis des milliers d'années ici-bas sans que personne de [?] les inquiéter, sont obligées d'entretenir des armées redoutables, à plus forte raison devons-nous juger sainement notre situation et bien comprendre celle de l'armée dite "Rouméliote." Ne devons-nous pas savoir si elle satisfait à tous nos besoins à l'intérieur et si même elle était suffisante au cas où il surviendrait quelque démêlé à l'extérieur.

Servir d'école où chaque membre de la nation acquerra les connaissances militaires nécessaires, sauvegarder l'ordre et la tranquillité, pouvoir défendre le pays contre toute attaque extérieure, tels sont les devoirs incombant à toute armée, telles sont les conditions auxquelles toute armée doit répondre.

Notre milice (dite Rouméliote?) répond-elle à toutes ces exigences? Mon avis et que notre force nationale ne peut pas aujourd'hui consister uniquement dans l'armée, mais encore dans toute la nation, s'exerçant chaque jour. Et avec cette armée même ne pourrait-on pas faire quelque chose de mieux avec une organisation spéciale? On ne dira peut-être que je vais un peu trop vite et que tout s'organise en ce moment. Tout n'était-il pas en ordre l'année dernière, quand le Commissaire Impérial Russe parvint à créer dans l'espace de deux mois une force de 40,000 hommes? La nouvelle Direction chargée de l'organisation de l'armée qu'a-t-elle fait dans l'espace des deux mois qui viennent de s'écouler? Ne pensez pas, O électeur! que rien n'a été fait; au contraire, l'on a fait et l'on fait encore beaucoup de choses, mais des choses absurdes, inutiles et nuisibles. On persécute l'armée, on la défait, on la désorganise et on la démoralise contre le désir de tout ce qui est, tant soit peu, au courant des affaires militaires et qui reconnaît tous les dangers menaçant notre Roumélie Orientale."

Nous défaisons et nous annulons notre petite force pour l'organisation de je ne sais quelle saleté de gendarmerie.

"Les Russes étaient des fous, ils ne savaient ce qu'ils faisaient; laissez-nous faire; nous les hommes sensés, quand nous aurons vu les talons de cette infanterie et cavalerie barbares Russo-Bulgares, et que nous aurons formé une gendarmerie à la Française, vous verrez que tout sera doux comme beurre et miel (*sic*). N'est-il pas absurde de démolir ce qui est prêt au profit d'une organisation incertaine, douteuse et éphémère?

Je suis contre toute gendarmerie qui prétend remplacer une milice, et je crois que tout homme, si peu expert qu'il soit en ces matières, partagera mon avis.

Pour l'accomplissement de quelques services de police nous avons assez de gendarmes; il suffit seulement de les astreindre aux règles de la discipline et de ne pas les charger d'une mission étrangère à leur métier.

Maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité dans le pays est spécialement l'affaire de l'armée. Faut-il donc livrer cette mission sainte à des individus qui ne serviront dans la gendarmerie que parce qu'ils n'ont pas de pain à manger ou parce qu'ils sont fainéants? Le sentiment du devoir sacré envers la patrie ne peut être épargné que par ceux qui défendent sa liberté. Il ne peut exister dans le cœur de vagabonds et de misérables comme ceux qui s'inscrivent dans le service de la gendarmerie.

On dira qu'on va les soumettre à une discipline sévère; ne vous y trompez pas! Le mercenaire est toujours mercenaire, et il ne travaille qu'aux heures de beau temps.

Quant au point que la gendarmerie nous coûterait moins que la milice, ceci est un pure mesonge.

Elle coûterait moins à la nation en ce sens qu'elle sera moins nombreuse, et au moment du péril elle coûtera mille fois plus cher.

Enfin, étant même que la gendarmerie fût moins dispendieux et qu'elle impose moins de charge personnelle à la nation, je pense que notre situation exige que nous recherchions non ce qui est moins dispendieux et ce qui est moins dure à porter, mais ce qui est le plus utile.

En vérité, est-ce le moment de faire de pareils calculs quand il s'agit de la défense d'une liberté si chèrement acquise? avons-nous bien ce droit? Qui nous l'a donné de nous lamenter de nos efforts et de nos erreurs là où d'autres hommes n'ont pas craint de sacrifier leur sang et leur existence.

Enfin on pourrait nous dire que le Traité de Berlin impose à notre pays une gendarmerie. Mais nous en avons des gendarmes pour la police.

Les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin ont peu d'intérêt à savoir qui sauvegardera l'ordre et la tranquillité dans notre contrée, si ce sont des gendarmes, de la cavalerie, ou de l'infanterie?

Et si, à Dieu ne plaise, dans notre gendarmerie et dans notre milice se trouvait en jeu un intérêt Anglais, de pareils gendarmes, de pareils soldats, nous n'en voulons pas.

(Signé) L. K. MARINOFF.

No. 195.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 679. Secret.)

Therapia, July 30, 1879.

My Lord,

DURING my interview with the Sultan yesterday, His Majesty spoke with much anxiety about the Greek question. He said that he greatly desired to see it settled, with as little delay as possible, in presence of the secret intrigues attributed to Russia, Austria, and Italy, with a view to bringing about an Albanian insurrection in the hopes of its leading to fresh European complications. He felt, His Majesty went on to say, that he might be placed in a most critical and difficult position if he found himself, under any circumstances, compelled to order his troops to fire upon a Mussulman population. He had been able to sound the French Ambassador with regard to the cession of Janina to Greece, and had reason to believe that France would not insist upon it; but she proposed in return a territorial compensation for the Greeks on the side of Thessaly, which was so extravagant that he could never agree to it. It included strategical positions which could not possibly be given to Greece without endangering his authority and the future security of the Turkish frontier in Albania. He was willing to make territorial concessions to Greece in districts and localities where the Christians were in a majority and the Mussulmans in a minority. On this basis he sincerely hoped that a solution might be arrived at through the friendly action of Her Majesty's Government.

His Majesty begged me earnestly to secure once more the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, to whom, he said, he would feel for ever grateful if they would only help him in this question.

I expressed to His Majesty, in reply, my deep regret, in which I felt sure His Majesty must participate, at the rejection by the Porte of the very advantageous offer made by Her Majesty's Government, when I was in England, to settle this question if

it were left absolutely in their hands. Had this offer been accepted, all the difficulties which had since arisen, and which threatened to cause so much embarrassment to his Government, would have been avoided, and he would have saved a considerable portion of the territory which he would now probably lose. It was too late to return to any such proposal. England had agreed to act in this matter with the other Powers, Signatories to the Treaty of Berlin, and had called upon the Porte with them to name its Commissioners to discuss with the Greek Plenipotentiaries, who were already in Constantinople, the new line of frontier. The best advice, therefore, that I could give His Majesty, was to appoint the Turkish Delegates without delay, and to authorize them to offer very liberal and generous concessions to Greece. It was for His Majesty to determine whether he could include Janina in them or not. It would then remain to be seen whether the Greek Delegates would reject or accept the proposal of the Porte. If they rejected it, Her Majesty's Government might then possibly consent to use their friendly offices to bring about a satisfactory solution.

The Sultan appeared to approve of this advice, and to deplore the rejection of the offer made to him by Her Majesty's Government in the spring. He said that he had that day sent to the Porte the Iradé ordering the nomination of the Turkish Commissioners. Those who had been designated by Hairéddin Pasha were Aarifi and Ali Saïb Pashas and Munif Effendi. He did not know what changes would now be made. I suggested that an officer of ability and knowledge of the country should be placed on the Commission.

His Majesty said that he concurred in this suggestion, and believed that Ali Saïb, who had commanded in Thessaly, and who is now Grand Master of the Artillery, possessed these qualifications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 196.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 680.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 30, 1879.*

I PAID this morning the customary official visit to Aarifi Pacha, on his nomination to the office of Prime Minister. I availed myself of the opportunity to represent in strong terms the neglect which had been shown by the Porte in bringing to a conclusion many important questions, to the great detriment of its own interests, and to the dissatisfaction of the European Powers, and especially of Her Majesty's Government. I particularly mentioned the execution of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, the Greek question, the reforms in the Asiatic Provinces, the reply to my note referring to the Somali Coast, the promulgation of the Protestant Constitution, and the Slave Trade Convention. I described to his Highness the present position of each of these questions, and urged his Highness to lose no time in issuing instructions that they should be dealt with without further delay. His Highness promised that he would at once give his attention to them, and assured me that it was his earnest desire to bring them to a conclusion satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government. I was well acquainted, his Highness said, with his views as to the necessity of a cordial understanding between England and Turkey, and I might rest assured that, as far as depended upon him, they should be carried out. He was now awaiting the arrival of Safvet Pasha, who would be at once charged, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, to discuss and settle with me the matters which I had brought to his notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 197.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 682. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 30, 1879.*

I SAW the Sultan yesterday. In the course of a conversation, which lasted nearly three hours, His Majesty explained to me why he had parted with his two

Ministers. His Majesty said that he had had a "family quarrel" with Hairéddin Pasha, which, had it been confined to His Highness and himself, would have been easily settled; but, unfortunately, His Highness, not being sufficiently well acquainted with Turkish, had employed a Turkish scribe, in whom no confidence could be placed, to translate the letters, which he had written in Arabic, containing the conditions upon which he would withdraw his resignation, and observations of so secret and confidential a nature that no third person should have been made acquainted with them. The consequence had been that what had passed had been published in the newspapers, and had become the subject of public comment. He was thus, His Majesty went on to say, placed in a very delicate position. He could not give way without a sacrifice of dignity and self-respect, and was, therefore, under the absolute necessity of accepting Hairéddin Pasha's resignation. His Majesty, moreover, complained that Hairéddin Pasha had used very unbecoming language with regard to him, and had treated the Ministers and high functionaries with a want of proper consideration. Notwithstanding, however, what had unfortunately occurred, he still entertained a very great esteem for his late Grand Vizier, and fully recognized his high qualities.

His Majesty spoke with a good deal of bitterness about Caratheodory Pasha. He admitted, he said, his remarkable ability. He considered him not only the cleverest diplomatist in Turkey, but one of the cleverest in Europe; and he much regretted that he had been compelled to dispense with his services. But Caratheodory Pasha, whom he had charged to reconcile the differences which had arisen between himself and Hairéddin Pasha, had, instead, done his best to widen the breach, and to prevent any arrangement being come to between them. His Majesty insinuated that his Excellency had written some of the communications which Hairéddin had addressed to him, and which proved so distasteful to him.

I expressed my very great regret to His Majesty that he had taken a step so contrary to the interests of himself and his Empire in its present critical state as to dismiss from his service his two ablest Ministers. I said that this regret was participated by Her Majesty's Government, and that the impression which the fall of Hairéddin Pasha had made upon public opinion in Europe and in Turkey was a very unfavourable one. However, as His Majesty had now taken this step, it was of no use going back upon the matter. I was quite ready to admit that he had selected two upright and honourable men to replace Hairéddin and Caratheodory Pashas. I had entire confidence in the good intentions of Aarifi and Safvet Pashas, and it was now for His Majesty to justify the change that he had made by entering resolutely and energetically upon the reforms which he had pledged himself to put into execution. Unless he did so, Her Majesty's Government would not be persuaded that he intended to fulfil loyally the engagements that he had contracted on this subject. A year had now elapsed since the conclusion of the Cyprus Convention, and nothing had yet been done, on the part of His Majesty, to carry out its provisions. I could not conceal from him, I added, that Her Majesty's Government were painfully surprised at finding that the distinct assurances given by His Majesty through Safvet Pasha in his note of the 24th June had not been fulfilled. The reforms which Her Majesty's Government had asked for were, His Majesty himself had admitted, moderate and easy of execution. No reasonable excuse could, therefore, be assigned for the delay of which I complained.

His Majesty replied that various matters had prevented his Government from giving their attention to the reforms to which I referred. Some allowance should be made by Her Majesty's Government for the very difficult and painful position in which he had found himself placed. The disorganized condition of his Empire arising out of the war, its financial embarrassments, and grave international questions, had occupied his exclusive attention. As he was happy to find that the Egyptian difficulty was now settled, there only remained the Greek question to be dealt with, and he hoped that this matter would also soon be arranged to the satisfaction of Europe. He therefore gave me his word of honour, His Majesty said, in a very solemn manner, that the reforms promised to Her Majesty's Government should now be carried out. He had already sent the most peremptory orders to his Ministers to examine these reforms at once, and to report to him, within the shortest possible time, how they could be best put into execution. There was one, however, His Majesty observed, which it was not easy to introduce—the abolition of tithes. He had been informed that even Her Majesty's Government had not thought it advisable to take that measure in Cyprus.

I replied that the abolition of tithes required, no doubt, a great deal of consideration and study. Her Majesty's Government were not so unreasonable as to demand

that it should be immediately enforced. But reforms, as regards their collection, might be adopted at once, so that it might be rendered less onerous and oppressive to the population. But there were many other financial measures, besides the substitution of a land tax for tithes, which could be introduced into the vilayets, to the great advantage of the country and his Treasury, if carried out under the control and direction of competent European Inspectors. I reminded His Majesty that he had himself suggested that the proposed reforms should be first introduced, by way of experiment, into two vilayets, and that he had mentioned the provinces of Kastamouni and Aïdin, or Broussa, as the best calculated for this purpose. I ventured to suggest that one of the two provinces should be that of Erzeroum, as the sufferings and wrongs of the Christian populations of that part of Asia Minor were exciting a great deal of interest and sympathy in Europe. It would, therefore, be wise to take measures without delay for their protection and better Government. If this were not done, disastrous consequences might ensue. I further reminded His Majesty that he authorized me, many months ago, to inform Her Majesty's Government that he was prepared to give a high command to Baker Pasha in Kurdistan. I felt it my duty, I added, to ask His Majesty to perform his promise.

His Majesty answered that he had fully intended, when he made that promise, to employ Baker Pasha in Anatolia; but circumstances had occurred which rendered it necessary that he should be kept at Constantinople. He was now, however, ready to send Baker Pasha to Erzeroum. His Majesty asked me to ascertain when he might be expected to return from his leave of absence. His Majesty went on to assure me, in the most explicit terms, that I would be fully satisfied with the measures which he was about to take for putting into execution the promised reforms, and requested me to see Aarifi Pasha at once on the subject.

I then asked His Majesty if he would explain to me the exact nature of the change that he had made in the constitution of his Ministry; why he had abolished the office of Grand Vizier, and had appointed a President of the Council instead, and what would be the duties of the new Prime Minister.

His Majesty replied that the powers hitherto possessed by the Grand Vizier were far too extensive. They made him, in fact, coequal with the Sultan. He wished to limit those powers, and to render each Minister responsible to the Sultan himself for the conduct of the affairs of his Department. The President of the Council, or Prime Minister (Bash Vakil), was to be the intermediary between himself and them. The law carrying out these changes was now under the consideration of his Council, and he could not yet say what the details of it might be.

I ventured to tell His Majesty that the sweeping change he had made, in the critical circumstances in which his Empire was placed, was one which might lead to grave results. It signified little whether the head of his Government was called "Grand Vizier" or "Bash Vakil." But it was of the highest importance that he should have real power and control over his Ministry, and that His Majesty should not himself attempt to direct public affairs, and permit irresponsible persons to interfere in them. I adhered, I said, to everything that I had stated to him in my letter, which I had written after long deliberation, and in the conviction that I was acting as a true friend to himself and to Turkey in placing before him the truth, which I was persuaded was concealed from him. I warned him that his Empire was in peril, and that he was becoming unpopular with all classes of his subjects, because they attributed to him personally all the evils that had befallen the country. This would continue to be the case so long as His Majesty insisted upon governing, and did not leave that task, and the responsibility attending it, to responsible Ministers. If His Majesty could find some one to send about the provinces in whom he had complete confidence, and who would dare to tell him faithfully what he heard and saw, His Majesty would learn that what I had stated to him was nothing but the truth.

His Majesty, who listened attentively and gravely to what I said to him, defended himself against the accusation of being under the influence of any one in the Palace, or out of it. The only persons amongst his immediate attendants with whom he was in the habit of conversing were Munir Bey (the Chief Interpreter), and sometimes Hamdi Pasha (the Principal Chamberlain). Osman Pasha was nothing but a "cold-blooded" soldier, and was not a man to be consulted upon political questions of delicacy and importance. He endeavoured to judge for himself, and to act as he considered best in the interests of his country. He desired to divest himself of the great responsibility and the heavy labours which had devolved upon him since he had been upon the throne. He admitted that the state of the Administration was one of general anarchy, and that corruption prevailed in every branch of it; but he asserted that no one in the

Palace would venture to take a bribe. He again assured me that he was about to enter seriously and loyally upon the path of reform.

When I paid this morning the usual visit of ceremony to the Prime Minister, I informed his Highness that I had been requested by the Sultan to speak to him on the subject of the reforms to be introduced into Asia Minor, and to urge him to lose no time in submitting the report of the Council of Ministers upon them to His Majesty. Aarifi Pasha replied that His Majesty had commanded him to give his attention to this subject before all others, and that he would accordingly do so. His Highness gave me assurances no less positive and solemn than those of His Majesty that measures would be taken without delay to put into execution, as far as was possible, the reforms promised to Her Majesty's Government.

I subsequently saw Hairedin Pasha, to whom I mentioned the Sultan's complaint against him. His Highness said that the letter which he had written to His Majesty upon the state of public affairs, and containing the statement of the conditions upon which he consented to retain his office of Grand Vizier, was in Arabic, the language with which he was best acquainted. His Majesty himself requested that it might be put into Turkish, and one of the Secretaries attached to the Grand Vizierat made the translation. If any of his correspondence with His Majesty was in French it was His Majesty's own fault, as he had thought fit to make use of M. Dreyssé, the French officer who lives in the Palace, as an intermediary. His Highness told me that on one occasion His Majesty sent M. Dreyssé to him at night to ask him, amongst other things, whether it was true that he was engaged in a conspiracy to place His Majesty's brother, Reshad Effendi, on the throne, and whether he had said that His Majesty was entirely incapable of directing or understanding affairs, and that, having accepted the loan of a large sum of money from him, His Majesty was under obligations which placed him under his control. His Highness said that, unwilling to send a verbal answer to the Sultan by a person in the position of M. Dreyssé, he had written his reply in French. His Highness observed that the excessive absurdity of such questions proved that the Sultan could not be considered in his right mind when his fears and suspicions were aroused by the unprincipled and designing persons who surrounded him.

Hairedin Pasha expressed his approval of the choice that His Majesty had made in Aarifi and Safvet Pashas; especially the latter, whom he had frequently advised His Majesty to recall to Constantinople, and to place in the Ministry. He believed them both to be honest and patriotic men, and to be prepared to follow a policy in conformity with the true interests of the country. Such being the case, it was his opinion that the change should be accepted, and he intended to remain quietly in his house and await events. He told me that the Sultan had sent an Aide-de-camp to him on the previous evening, with a very kind message. This appeared to have gratified him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 198.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 685.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a despatch from Major Trotter, inclosing a translation of an article from an Armenian newspaper objecting to the title of "Kurdistan" for his Consular district, and maintaining that it should be called "Armenia." Major Trotter recommends that some concession should be made to Armenian sentiment, and that he should be appointed Consul for Armenia and Kurdistan.

This matter has already been brought to my notice by Archbishop Nerses, the pro-Patriarch of Constantinople, in a letter, copy of which was inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 576 of the 1st ultimo.

I may observe that it is very unlikely that the Porte will deliver an exequatur to a Consul for "Armenia," a province that does not exist, as far as the present political divisions of Turkey are concerned. It is well aware of the intrigues that are going on to raise an Armenian question, and to induce Europe to demand that there shall be an Armenian autonomy. It is not very probable that it will be disposed to do anything

to promote them. If the title of Consul for Kurdistan is offensive to the Armenians, some other one can no doubt be found. It is true that while the term "Kurdistan" is used to represent the country inhabited by the Kurds, it is not applied by the Porte to any particular province. It is on this account that Major Trotter's exequatur, like that of Colonel Wilson, was made out for the several vilayets over which his Consular jurisdiction extends. It appears to me that under these circumstances no change need be made in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 199.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 686.) *Therapia, August 1, 1879.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch which I have received, under flying seal, from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson relative to the necessity of sending regular troops into the Vilayet of Koniah to keep the Circassians in order. I have communicated Colonel Wilson's statement to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 200.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury —(Received August 12.)

(No. 687.) *Therapia, August 1, 1879.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 966 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to state that I have constantly represented to the Porte that sources of revenue, such as the customs of Constantinople, and the indirect taxes, specially assigned as securities for certain loans, have been diverted to other purposes. The Turkish Government does not attempt to deny the fact, but pleads that it was compelled to raise money upon them to meet its urgent financial difficulties. In the various schemes for raising a new loan, and for reforming the Financial Administration, the special claims of the holders of the loans of 1858 and 1863 have always been taken into consideration. I do not understand from your Lordship's despatch that you wish me to make any official representation or protest in their favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 201.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 688. Confidential.) *Therapia, August 2, 1879.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter which I have received from Rustem Pasha, giving an interesting account of affairs in the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Rustem Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Extract.)

JE voudrais, mon cher Ambassadeur, être en mesure, comme vous le souhaitez, de mettre en pratique mes vues et ma politique. Pour cela il me faudrait des hommes, et c'est au Liban ce qui manque le plus. Je suis mécontent des Présidents de Tribunaux et de plusieurs Juges; mais j'éprouve de grandes difficultés à les remplacer parce que je n'en trouve pas, ou pour mieux dire, parce que le pays n'en produit pas de meilleurs. Je dois donc, pour éviter de trop grands abus, surveiller moi-même, avec la plus active vigilance, la marche des Tribunaux; et cette tâche, laborieuse autant qu'ingrate, me fatigue beaucoup. J'avais eu l'idée de faire ici une École de Droit, de manière à former quelques bons sujets pour l'avenir; mais j'ai dû renoncer à cette idée, comme à bien d'autres projets de petites réformes, parce que les réponses nous font défaut. Par suite de l'exiguïté du chiffre de l'impôt qui est fixé par le Règlement, la Porte doit allouer chaque année au Liban une subvention pour combler la différence qui existe entre les dépenses des recettes. Jadis on nous donnait une allocation sur la douane de Beyrout et les choses marchaient à peu près bien; c'était, de plus, la voie la plus correcte, car cette allocation ne devrait être considérée que comme la restitution au Liban d'une faible partie des revenus que la Douane encaisse sur les importations et les exportations de la Montagne. C'est ce qui vient, il y a peu de temps, d'être mis en pratique pour l'Ile de Crète. Or, au lieu de nous donner comme jadis une allocation sur la douane, on nous la donne sur la Syrie, et par impuissance ou par mauvais vouloir, la Syrie ne paye pas. Nous avons à recevoir une partie de l'allocation de 1877, la totalité de celle de 1878, et nous n'avons pas même encore reçu la délégation pour 1879. Cela nous jette dans la plus triste des embarras; et je vous avoue que je suis souvent découragé par ces luttes incessantes pour obtenir ces moyens matériels pour faire marcher mon Administration. Ma santé n'est plus suffisamment robuste pour que je puisse combattre à la fois de tous les côtés, et si en dehors des difficultés, des intrigues, et des jalousies auxquelles j'ai à faire face sur le terrain politique, je dois aussi être à tout moment affristé par l'impossibilité de subvenir aux besoins de la milice et des fonctionnaires, la situation cesserait d'être tenable, et je suis souvent tenté de me retirer plutôt que de continuer à épuiser ainsi ma santé et mes forces dans une tâche qui n'est compensée par aucune satisfaction. Si vous pouviez me seconder auprès du Grand Vizir et du Ministère des Finances pour m'aider à obtenir les sommes que le Vilayet de Syrie doit au Liban, je vous en serais fort reconnaissant; car si ces payements devaient encore être retardés, je ne sais vraiment pas comment, dans quelques mois d'ici, l'Administration pourra marcher.

No. 202.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 690. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 2, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship an extract from a private letter addressed to me by Mr. Consul Sandwith, relative to the state of affairs in Crete, which I do not doubt your Lordship will read with interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.)

THE vessel of the Cretan Constitution having been fairly launched, it now remains for it to take its own course. That course is to a certain extent guided by the Vali, but he is not ably seconded by his Administrative Council. As your Excellency is aware, that body was elected by the General Assembly, and the members of it

are by no means the best that could have been chosen. They have begun to interfere in the appointment to important posts, one member recommending a relative for this post and another for that, and threatening to resign if their recommendations are not attended to.

For the sake of peace Photiades Pasha has yielded in some instances to their pretensions, though I warned him that the precedent would be injurious to his influence, particularly as the persons appointed are much below par. His Excellency has undoubtedly erred in trusting in these matters to the recommendations of interested parties, and he was assuring me only to-day that he should be more on his guard in future. He shows a commendable anxiety to find worthy Presidents of the Courts of Law, but has not yet succeeded in inducing any eminent lawyer, who must necessarily be sought for in the Athens school, to preside at the Appellate Court. The popular elections for the Judges of the different Courts are to take place immediately, but little good can be expected to be derived from a change of persons chosen on so vicious a principle.

The gendarmerie is being slowly organized, but the funds for that purpose have not sufficed to pay up arrears.

No. 203.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 691.) *Therapia, August* 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a telegram addressed to me by some persons styling themselves representatives of the population of Yeni-Bazar, complaining of the delimitation of the Servian frontier in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 203.

The Representatives of the Inhabitants of Yeni-Bazar to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Traduction.) *Le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Juillet*, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

LES Commissaires qui devraient fixer les nouvelles frontières Serbes du côté de Yeni-Bazar d'après les stipulations du Congrès ont, sur les seules explications fournies par les Serbes, donné le nom de Caïnligh aux plateaux Rakara et Ira qui se trouvent dans le Canton de Tabra du côté de Yeni-Bazar, sans rien nous demander à nous-mêmes; ils ont fixé la frontière de ce côté-là et ont même placé des signaux. Cependant nous autres n'acceptons pas ce tracé, et nous l'avons fait savoir officiellement aux Commissaires, car le vrai Caïnligh se trouve sur les limites du Sandjak de Nisch et du Caza de Yeni-Bazar et Dilchita, et au milieu du Mont Copanik, tandis que l'endroit démarqué se trouve à quatre heures de distance, et l'emplacement désigné par les Serbes comme étant Caïnligh, n'est pas le vrai Caïnligh. Ceci a été reconnu par les Commissaires eux-mêmes, qui l'ont écrit au Commandant militaire qui se trouve à Yeni-Bazar.

De façon que la perte sans raison aucune de terres riches et fertiles de six heures de latitude sur quatre de longitude, nous porte un grand préjudice, et nous sommes sûrs que les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin ne le permettront pas. Nous prions votre Excellence d'en informer son Gouvernement pour nous préserver de cette injustice et nous espérons recevoir une réponse.

(Signé) Douze Représentants de la Population de Yeni-Bazar.

No. 204.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 692.) *Therapia, August* 3, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Consul-General Blunt's despatch to No. 52 of the 30th June last, a copy of which he has communicated to your Lordship, I have the honour to state that I have strongly urged the Porte to adopt the measures recommended by him in regard to acts of brigandage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 205.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 694.) *Therapia, August* 3, 1879.

My Lord,

ON receipt of Mr. Sandwith's despatch No. 26 of the 5th May last, copy of which he had communicated to your Lordship, I directed Sir A. Sandison to communicate the substance of it to Carathéodory Pasha, and to represent the importance of settling matters with the Assembly without delay.

The Porte has now sent me an extract from a Report from Photiades Pasha on the subject, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Substance of Report by Photiades Bey.

(Traduction.)

SON Excellence Photiades Pacha reconnaît lui-même que l'idée de l'adoption de Vranios comme chef-lieu du Sandjak de Sphakia n'a pas été heureuse, et ne nie pas le mécontentement qui s'est produit parmi la population à ce sujet. Mais la question du transfert du chef-lieu d'un endroit à un autre étant d'après le Règlement Organique du ressort exclusif des Conseils Administratifs, son Excellence fait observer qu'elle ne saurait transférer sur ce point comme sur tous les autres les lois qu'elle est appelée à appliquer et à faire respecter. Toutefois Photiades Pacha a donné des ordres formels pour hâter l'élection conformément au Statut des membres du Conseil Administratif du Sandjak de Sphakia. Ce sont les autorités administratives nommées par le Conseil qui auront à choisir la localité la plus propre à servir de chef-lieu du Sandjak. Elles en donneront avis au Gouvernement central de l'Ile qui soumettra la question à la discussion du Conseil Administratif du Vilayet. Ce n'est donc qu'après l'accomplissement de toutes ces formalités que le projet de transfert pourra être définitivement adopté et mis à exécution. Le Gouverneur-Général ne saurait en conséquence encourir de ce chef aucune responsabilité.

Pour ce qui est de son entourage le Gouverneur-Général s'est adressé en personne à Mr. Sandwith pour connaître quels étaient les Conseillers intéressés auxquels il avait été fait allusion. Mr. Sandwith n'ayant pu rien préciser a avoué que c'était là une supposition de sa part et qu'il se rétractait ayant reconnu l'inanité de cette supposition.

Quant à la question qui représente Photiades Pacha comme manquant de soutien de la part de son Gouvernement, la Sublime Porte y a donné le plus formel démenti en sanctionnant les règlements et les décisions adoptées par l'Assemblée Générale de l'Ile, et en résolvant favorablement une foule d'autres questions importantes. Photiades Pacha repousse également tout reproche d'hésitation qui pourrait lui être fait.

Son Excellence conclut en faisant remarquer que le retard apporté forcément à Constantinople à la sanction des projets de l'Assemblée Crétoise avait en effet servi un moment de prétexte aux malveillants pour travailler les esprits. Mais depuis tout

est rentré dans le calme, et à l'heure qu'il est la plus grande harmonie et la plus grande tranquillité règnent parmi toutes les classes de la population.

No. 206.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 698. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 4, 1879.*

I OMITTED to mention in my despatch No. 682, Secret, of the 30th ultimo, reporting my conversation with the Sultan, that I had expressed my regret to His Majesty that amongst the members of the new Government there was no Christian, whereas there had been two in the previous Ministry. His Majesty said that he hoped I knew him too well to suppose that he had any religious objection to the employment of Christians, and I must remember that the Ministry was not completely organized.

Sawas Pasha was Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and would remain as Musteshar, or Under-Secretary of State for that Department; a very important post. The Ministry of Works, which he had hitherto filled was now vacant. His Majesty gave me to understand that he intended to name a Christian to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 207.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 699.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 5, 1879.*

THE Sultan continues to treat Haireddin Pasha with much kindness and consideration. He has given him a pension of about 1,500*l.* a-year, and has placed one of the Royal steam-launches at his disposal. The report that his Highness was about to leave Constantinople for Europe is, for the present, unfounded.

I regret to say that His Majesty has also conferred a pension of a similar amount upon Mehmoud Nedim Pasha, who, being a man of considerable wealth, has no need of it. The money would be better spent in paying some of the unfortunate functionaries, who have been on the verge of starvation from not having received their pay for months, and getting the portions of it doled out to them in paper, worth little or nothing, or bad money.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 208.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 700.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 5, 1879.*

SAID PASHA arrived here last week from Kastamouni. He called upon me immediately after his arrival. He will leave in the course of this week for Alexandretta, on his way to Marash and Zeitoun to carry out his mission. I have suggested that to give importance to it he should go to the Syrian coast in a vessel of war. This suggestion having been communicated to the Sultan, His Majesty at once acceded to it, and sent to tell me so.

I have placed before Said Pasha very fully the occurrences at Zeitoun, and the misconduct of Kiamil Pasha, Wassi Pasha, and the other Turkish authorities concerned in them. His Excellency has expressed to me his firm determination to deal justly and impartially with the case, and from my knowledge of his character, I have every reason to believe that he will do so. Unfortunately the influence of a certain Aleppo religious Sheikh, who is established in the Palace, and who has hitherto supported Kiamil Pasha, and those who have maltreated the people of Zeitoun, will be used against him.

As Said Pasha expressed his wish that Lieutenant Chermside should meet him, and should furnish him with full information as to the events of Zeitoun, I have telegraphed to Lieutenant Chermside not to leave Aleppo until His Excellency arrives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 209.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 702.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches, as marked in the margin, upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consular Officers at Rustchuk, Janina, and Varna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 209.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Sir A. H. Layard.

Rustchuk, July 28, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to place before you the result of my inquiries regarding certain recent proceedings, misnamed Turkish riots, which have occupied a good deal of attention, but about which almost nothing certain has yet been published.

I shall divide these affairs into three classes:—

1st, that of Rasgrad; 2nd, that of Osman Bazar; 3rd, that of Eski Djumar.

The Rasgrad affair is now known to have been simply a series of acts of brigandage committed by a band of ruffians led by a nigger Arab, El Nur, who has now been caught, and his band dispersed.

The Eski Djumar affair is very similar, only that the brigands are a separate band, and that their leader is at large.

I spoke to the Governor of Rustchuk about both affairs, and he assured me of his own accord that there was no political importance whatever to be attached to them, and that the Mahommedan villages, and individual Mahommedans, had suffered more than their Christian neighbours. This was only what I had heard elsewhere; but I am glad to be able to quote such testimony, as there is no doubt a class of persons disposed to attribute an intention of rising in revolt to the Mussulman population, than which nothing could be further from the truth.

I also asked the Government about the Osman Bazar affair, which is different, but he declined to give me any information regarding it, as the district is not in the limits of his Government, but has been in that of Varna.

There are many and alarming rumours afloat respecting this affair, principally that the population of several Mussulman villages attacked the konak at Osman Bazar, with the object of procuring a supply of arms and robbing the Government Chest, and also that there was a large correspondence going on between these people and those of certain villages nearer here, such as Kadikeui, some of whom have been arrested under pretext of having treasonable correspondence in their possession.

I am, however, disposed to believe another account, which is that they suffered from brigandage committed by Christian brigands, and having at last received a written demand for a sum of money, they sent a deputation to Osman Bazar, to ask protection from the local authority, which was promised to them; and, accordingly, on the following days the zaptiehs were sent to their villages, but with them came the brigands, and zaptiehs and brigands united commenced to pillage the village.

The villagers, being numerous and strong enough, resisted, and succeeded in driving away the band of brigands, killing several of their number.

I understand that since this affair there have been a good many arrests, but the parties have been sent to Varna to be tried.

Such occurrences are exceedingly regrettable; but, as I have pointed out formerly, they seem to take place in certain border and strategical positions, where it is doubtless desired to replace a Mussulman by a Christian population, and this affair is an excellent proof that my opinion is well founded, for it has been talked of for months before anything did take place, you yourself having written to ask about it on the 14th June, a long time before it happened.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 209.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Janina, July 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the captive referred in my depsatch No. 34 has been murdered by the brigands.

On the evening of Sunday last, a band of brigands passed through the village of Proskoli, six hours distant from Janina, and carried off five of the inhabitants for whose release they demand £ T. 900.

On the same day seventeen other brigands appeared on the Mountain of Mitzikéli, on the Lake of Janina, and made off with several sheep.

On Monday last a band of brigands entered the village of Sklivani, five hours distant from Janina, and plundered the house of one of the first of the inhabitants, whom they also severely wounded, and I am informed that he has died of his wounds.

Notice has been given by the brigands to the inhabitants of Papingon Fagori, to pay within a fixed time £ T. 800.

In the villages of Kahrites and Serakou, other bands of brigands have made their appearance and threaten the inhabitants.

In conclusion, the country is in a hopeless state, and it may be said that Janina is besieged by brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 209.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Consul-General Palgrave.

Varna, August 2, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state with regard to the fortifications of Varna, that after some work had been done towards their demolition, it was suddenly stopped. I therefore submit to you the following notes as to their present state.

In general, the top or crown of the earthern ramparts has been taken off to about a level of 2½ or 3 feet, but although in some places in the middle a greater depth has been reached as shown by some small pillars of earth purposely left standing, I doubt whether, judging from the extremely small quantity of earth in the surrounding ditches, and allowing for the slant, there has been more than 2½ to 3 feet removed on an average. There are no embrasures remaining, but the earthworks are still raised considerably above the level, and to put the forts into as good a state as they were before the Turks abandoned them would not take much labour.

Of the twelve different works which surrounded Varna, by far the most important is that of Fort Franka, formerly called Fort Izzeddin, about 3 kilom. north of the town, and although some earth has been taken away from on top as in the others, the solid masonry casemates have not been touched.

The next in importance is Fort Galata on the south-east of the bay; here the stone platforms, magazines, &c., are much in the same state as when the Turks left.

It appears to me that the earthworks, forts, to the south of Varna, erected by the Egyptian troops, have had more earth dug away from them, doubtless because the soil was much easier to work. When I asked the Governor of Varna if he thought that the demolishing operations had been definitively suspended, he replied that he could not inform me as the works were entirely in the hands of the military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. BROPHY.

No. 210.

Consul Moore to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 2. Political.)
My Lord, *Jerusalem, July* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch No. 10 of this date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, on the present condition of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure in No 210.

Consul Moore to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Jerusalem, July* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that at no former period of my sixteen years residence in Palestine has the condition of the country been so deplorable as at present.

Various causes contribute to this depression. The drain of nearly all the able-bodied men for the late war, scanty harvests, insufficient rain, high prices, and the ruinous loss inflicted on hundreds by the stoppage of the payment of the interest on Turkish Government securities, have produced their natural consequences in wide-spread destitution and industrial and commercial stagnation.

Wheat and grain are at double their normal prices; this year's crops are again meagre. Of the 12,000 Conscripts and Redif who were sent to the seat of war from this Liva, probably not more than a quarter have returned. Thus the prospect of better times coming in the natural course of things is unpromising in the extreme.

Instead of combatting these evils by remedial measures, the conduct of those in authority greatly aggravates them. The corruption and endless abuses in every branch of Turkish provincial administration are too well known to your Excellency to need any description from me. These are as rife as ever. The greatest sufferers thereby are incontestably the Mussulman rural population, the bone and sinew of the country, and whose numbers, as compared with that of the non-Mussulman inhabitants, is as four to one. Whilst every other community can, and does, in case of need, appeal to the protection and sympathy of powerful advocates, the Mussulman has no one to look to.

The actual Governor, Raouf Pasha, is a well-intentioned and, as all believe, an honest man, but he is deficient in energy and initiative; but even were this otherwise, the task of reforming abuses which are traditional and systematic in the various departments of the Administration is more than any one man can accomplish, unless under a thorough change of conditions.

To give one or two instances of passive maladministration and improvidence, the one carriageable road in the whole Liva, that between Jaffa and Jerusalem, constructed some years ago by Nazif Pasha, has been allowed to fall into such disrepair, that it is now dangerous to travel on it in the strongest-made cart, and yet the income of the road from the toll levied on all animals going over it, as well as wheeled conveyances, is between 600*l.* and 700*l.* a-year. The country having been denuded of trees, which are cut down and sold for firewood, the peasants next look to digging up the roots, which now constitute the common fuel of every house and establishment in the town, and this has been going on for years unchecked by the authorities. It is believed that this deforestation, which is further helped by the flocks and herds which roam over every hill and valley, and crop up every green shoot that shows itself above the ground, reacts upon the climate, and contributes to the short rainfalls now become so frequent, with all their attendant evils.

In strong contrast with this inertia of the rulers of the country is the activity displayed by foreigners. I have already reported on the Russian establishments which dot the neighbourhood of Jerusalem and elsewhere in Palestine. The several German settlements are prospering, whilst the influx continues of foreign Jews, mostly Polish and German, who, availing themselves of the right now possessed by foreigners of holding real estate in Turkey, are buying land and building houses in all directions.

At this moment the French are particularly active. Four imposing new Latin edifices are rising simultaneously, three at Jerusalem, and one at Jaffa, for educational and charitable purposes, namely: (1), an orphanage and school, capable of accommodating 200 boys, building with moneys collected in France and other Roman Catholic countries; (2), a boarding-school of the French fraternity of Frères de la Doctrine Chrétienne; (3), a hospital building by a French philanthropist; and (4), a vast hospital at Jaffa, also by a French lady.

It is not known whether the scheme of reform for Syria, which, it is understood, Midhat Pasha has prepared and submitted to the Porte, includes the Liva of Jerusalem, which is politically and administratively independent of Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

No. 211.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 175.) *Bucharest, July 30, 1879.*

My Lord,

SHOULD the present Ministers ascertain that they are unable to secure the support of two-thirds of the members in both Chambers for the adoption of the amendment of the Constitution as proposed by them, they would no doubt have to resort to a fresh dissolution, a proceeding highly inexpedient for many reasons, and one which might even be attended with some danger to the tranquillity of the country.

The former Cabinet had a considerable majority in both Chambers, and a few more votes have been added to its supporters by the accession to office of Messrs. Boeresco and Cogalniceano, but though their partizans are prepared to support their general policy, they make a single exception to this rule, and unfortunately this one applies to the Jewish question on which some Deputies and Senators have taken particular pledges to their electors, and on which a simple majority is insufficient; such a one would still remain to the Ministers, but two-thirds of votes in favour of the proposed amendment of the Constitution are absolutely required, and there is as yet no sufficient certainty that these can be obtained either in the present Chambers or in future ones, should a new appeal have to be made to the electors.

Two causes are assigned as the source of this increasing difficulty:

1. The confusion which exists in the minds of the public at large as to the extent of what the Powers expect to be done for the Jews exaggerated accounts and imaginary dangers have obtained general credence, especially in the rural districts, and very little is done to disabuse the public mind or to set it right; the partizans of the Government appear to consider the existing agitation as a welcome auxiliary in negotiating with foreign Powers.

2. A combination appears to exist between two extreme parties, the ultra-Radicals of them animated by a burning desire to displace the present Ministers from office, under Mr. Vernescu, and the Boyards, or so-called Conservative party, who are both and some of them are even strongly suspected of a desire to upset Prince Charles himself by this question, and bring about by this means a complete change in the institutions of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 212.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 176. Secret.) *Bucharest, July 30, 1879.*

My Lord,

SINCE my return to Bucharest I have been very much struck by the progress made in Roumania in a sullen disposition of the people to ignore to a great extent the demands of the Powers concerning the Jewish question.

I find the number of private persons objecting to religious equality as on the increase, and I am quite unable to account for this unsatisfactory symptom.

No. 210*.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 174.) *Bucharest, July 24, 1879.*

My Lord,

AFTER having announced an intention of proroguing the Chambers for a longer time the Roumanian Ministry yielded to the observations made to them on the subject, and have limited the prorogation to one month from yesterday, *i.e.*, to August 13/25.

Previous to the departure of the members of both Houses the programme of the new Cabinet was read in each Chamber yesterday.

I have had the honour to forward to your Lordship this day No. 173 by post a French translation of this Ministerial statement.

From that document your Lordship will see that the Cabinet has pledged itself to incorporate in the public law of their country the principle that religious differences will be no impediment to the exercise of civil and political rights in Roumania.

If this were done in a plain and straightforward way much would be gained.

On the other hand, as a sop to natural prejudices, the new Administration has renounced the plan adopted by its immediate predecessor within the last few days of their holding office, by which some classes of native Jews might be allowed to prove their claim to be deemed indigenous.

Instead of this last provision, which was extremely unpopular, it is now proposed to accompany the Act of the Legislature by a Schedule conferring naturalization on a number of Jews whose names are to be inserted in it.

This kind of expedient, which may, if properly carried out, admit to political rights the same individuals that might have become qualified by some other process, is kept extremely secret, and no mention is made of it in the official programme.

The latter adheres ostensibly to the principle of individual naturalization, and promises to remove the general apprehensions as to land changing hands by foreshadowing certain restrictions to be introduced as regards rural property for the future, with a view to protect the national and economical interests of the Roumanian people. No indication is given as to the nature of these intended restrictions, which, it is certain, however, are not to extend to houses or lands situated in towns.

M. Boeresco, the new Foreign Minister, intends starting shortly on a tour to foreign Courts, and will, no doubt, visit Vienna, Berlin, and Paris, for the purpose of advocating this new scheme for the solution of the Jewish question in Roumania, by trying to persuade the Powers to accept it. It is not yet decided whether he will proceed to any other capital, as his time is necessarily limited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

I have been assured that Russian agents, official and unofficial, are frequently expressing themselves privately in a sense encouraging the Roumanians to resist Jewish emancipation, but I am not aware that such unauthorized language of itself would be sufficient to produce what is passing here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 213.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 178.)
My Lord,

Bucharest, August 1, 1879.

I HAVE been informed that Baron Calice, of the Austrian Foreign Office, is drawing up an elaborate Memorandum on the Jewish question in Roumania for the use of the Powers interested in its solution.

M. Boeresco, the Foreign Minister, proposes leaving Bucharest next Sunday, the 3rd instant, for Vienna, with a view to make some communication with reference to this subject to the Government of Austria-Hungary.

I have given M. Boeresco private letters of introduction for Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, and also for Lord Lyons, as it is, I understand, his intention to endeavour to ascertain, through Lord Lyons, whether your Lordship is desirous that he should come over to London.

As his time is very limited, and as he will probably not be able to reach England till after the end of the Session, I did not feel justified in recommending M. Boeresco either to include London in his tour or to abstain from doing this.

I have endeavoured, however, to impress upon him that the four Powers are acting in concert in this question, and that their views had been repeatedly urged on the attention of Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 214.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 213.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, July 30, 1879.

THE Servian Boundary Commission having successfully finished its labours, I have, after consultation with Her Majesty's Commissioner, forwarded this day at 3.45 P.M. the following telegram in cypher to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Vienna and Constantinople, for the purpose of directing, through their kind offices, the attention of the Porte and the Government of Austria-Hungary to the only matter in suspense, which prevents the Commissioners from separating and returning home:—

"Prepolac frontier unanimously agreed to by Commission according to Turkish proposal; *ad referendum* in the case of the Austrian and Ottoman Commissioners.

"Commission has completed the whole of its task, but is detained here pending the decision of the two above-mentioned Governments."

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 215.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, July 31, 1879.

ACCORDING to a statement made to me by M. Ristich, the Servian Government are in possession of trustworthy information that there is again great agitation in Northern Albania, and that it was resolved, at a numerously attended meeting of the Chiefs, shortly to assemble their clans in order to undertake a fresh inroad into the

Principality on an unprecedentedly large scale, the local Ottoman authorities having been warned that any interference on their part would cost them their lives.

There are at present but two Turkish battalions escheloned along the Servo-Albanian frontier, but in compliance with the urgent request of the Servian Government, the Turkish Minister here has telegraphed the above information to the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Kossovo, who will no doubt take timely measures to arrest the movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 216.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 4, 1879.

BARON HERBERT, the Austro-Hungarian Minister Resident here, has been good enough to cause me to be informed that he has been directed by his Government to support the representations which, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I have recently had occasion to address to the Servian Government on behalf of the Albanian population, driven, by the events of the late war, from the territories newly annexed to the Principality.

I have deferred taking any further steps in the matter for the present, in the hope that the Porte may, as suggested, address in the meanwhile a formal demand to the Servian Government for permission for the return of these refugees to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 217.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 222.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 5, 1879.

I HAVE had some conversation with M. Ristich on the subject of the Servo-Turkish Commission, which, as prescribed by the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, is to settle all questions relative to the "vakoufs" and the Ottoman State properties in this Principality.

His Excellency informed me that the Porte's proposal to concert measures for the appointment of this Commission had, with Prince Milan's approval, been, as a matter of course, accepted in principle, but he feared some time might yet elapse before the Servian Delegate could be named, owing, amongst other reasons, to the difficulty of making a proper selection, and of drawing up the necessary instructions for his guidance.

It was very easy to gather, from his Excellency's tone, that the Servian Government consider the Signatory Powers—following in this instance the example set by Russia in the Treaty of San Stefano as regards Servia, but not as regards herself—have dealt rather hardly with the Principality in reserving the rights of Turkey in the properties of the State, and of the Church Establishments ("vakoufs") in the territories ceded to Servia, whereas the Servian Government hold that the above public and State properties should have been, according to precedent, made over to the Principality, together with the territories in question.

It is, therefore, by no means impossible they may seek to evade, as far as they can, this stipulation of the Treaty, by deferring the meeting of the Commission on various pretexts, and by subsequently throwing obstacles in the way of its coming to a decision.

Under these circumstances I have thought it right to communicate my impressions to Server Effendi, the Ottoman Minister here, and he has accordingly suggested to the Sublime Porte the expediency of at once naming and dispatching to Nisch the Turkish Delegate, a course which will compel the Servian Government to hasten the appointment of their representative on the Commission, however reluctant they may be to take such a step.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 218.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 223.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 5, 1879.

SINCE writing my despatch No. 220 of the 4th instant relative to the Albanian refugees, I have heard from the German Minister Resident that he expects shortly to be authorized to support the representations addressed by Her Majesty's Government to Servia on this question, as the instructions sent to his Austro-Hungarian colleague are accompanied by a Report which he (Count Bray) had drawn up in that sense, and which has evidently been communicated by Prince Bismarck to Count Andrassy.

I am also glad to add that Major Velini, the Italian Delegate to the European Boundary Commission for Servia, who is at the same time an influential member of the Italian Parliament, has strongly urged similar views on his Government, and has likewise taken occasion to point out to M. Ristich that, for the sake of the security of her southern frontiers, Servia must not only consent to the return of these Albanian refugees to their homes, but must also be prepared to grant them a large measure of autonomy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 219.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a lithographed copy of a despatch dated 23rd July / 4th August and evidently intended for publication, which M. Ristich has written to the Servian Representative at Constantinople, on the subject of the petition recently addressed to the Grand Vizier and the Great Powers by the Mussulman population of the territories ceded to Servia, complaining of the manner in which they have been ill-treated and despoiled of all they possessed by Prince Milan's Government.

The arguments advanced in this document, for the purpose of refuting the charges brought against the Servian Government, are, I fear, not of a nature to carry great weight with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 219.

M. Ristitch to M. Christitch.

M. le Ministre, *Belgrade, le* 23 Juillet / 4 Août, 1879.

NOUS trouvons dans les journaux étrangers la réproduction d'une plainte dirigée contre le Gouvernement Princier, et adressée au Grand Vizir ainsi qu'aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople, par un certain nombre d'habitants Musulmans émigrés des territoires annexés à la Serbie.

Les plaignants constatent d'abord que leurs propriétés ont échappé, grâce à la protection de Dieu, aux dévastations de la guerre, et c'est là le seul point de leur plainte sur lequel nous soyons d'accord avec eux. Ils auraient dû seulement ajouter qu'ils en sont redevables aussi à l'esprit d'ordre et à la discipline de l'armée Serbe, car si nos troupes, en entrant dans les provinces Turques, y avaient imité la conduite des troupes Turques envahissant notre territoire en 1876, les plaignants ne pourraient certes pas constater aujourd'hui que leurs propriétés sont restées intactes.

Les auteurs du document en question se plaignent ensuite de ce que les autorités Serbes, en entrant en possession du nouveau territoire, ont confisqué à plaisir leurs bêtes de somme, leurs instruments agricoles, leurs semences, leurs récoltes sur pied ou emmagasinées, en s'emparant de leurs fermes, de leurs maisons, et de leurs magasins.

Si au lieu de formuler ainsi leur plainte d'une manière générale, ils avaient spécifié des cas particuliers, rien ne serait plus facile que de réfuter leurs réclamations et

d'en dénoncer le mal-fondé. Mais à une plainte ainsi formulée je ne saurais répondre, M. le Ministre, qu'en affirmant son défaut de fondement, et en déclarant que les autorités Serbes n'ont nulle part séquestré arbitrairement la propriété de personne.

La meilleure preuve en est que les Musulmans qui sont restés dans les nouveaux territoires, de même que ceux qui, tout en ayant émigré, ne se sont point joints aux plaignants, disposent en toute liberté des biens qu'ils ont en Serbie, en perçoivent les revenus, les aliènent ou les afferment à leur gré, et que de cette façon ils ont déjà fait sortir du pays des sommes considérables.

Une autre preuve de mon affirmation est que le Gouvernement Princier, désirant régler les rapports de droit privé de certaines catégories de propriétaires qui recevaient la dîme ou d'autres prestations d'habitants établis sur des propriétés auxquelles certains droits étaient attachés, a désigné deux Commissions Agraires pour étudier ces rapports qui évidemment ne sauraient subsister sous la loi Serbe tels qu'ils étaient sous la loi Turque. Ces Commissions sont présentement à l'œuvre, et la régularisation de ces rapports de droit privé sera l'objet de décisions de la part de la prochaine Session Législative pour les questions que les Commissions ne réussiraient pas à arranger à l'amiable entre les parties.

Les plaignants appartiennent apparemment à une des trois catégories de Musulmans qui ont encore à régler leurs comptes soit avec l'Etat soit avec des particuliers. Ce sont:—

1. Ceux qui au temps de la domination Turque avaient la gestion de fonds pupillaires ou de caisses d'épargne, et qui se sont retirés à l'approche de nos troupes en emportant avec eux documents et argent sans rendre aucun compte à personne.

2. Ceux qui sont restés débiteurs envers d'autres personnes, et dont les biens ou leurs revenus ont été saisis par voie judiciaire au profit de leurs créanciers; et

3. Ceux qui, en se retirant devant notre armée, ont pris de force aux habitants des chars et des bœufs pour transporter leurs meubles, et qui ne les ont pas restitués. Le nombre des chars enlevés de cette manière dans certains endroits se monte à des centaines.

Il est clair qu'on ne saurait permettre à ces gens d'aliéner leurs biens au préjudice d'institutions publiques ou de particuliers aussi longtemps qu'ils n'auront pas liquidé leur situation par voie régulière. En attendant, ils ne sont point gênés dans l'administration de leurs biens.

Si, dans certains cas nos troupes, opérant dans les nouveaux territoires, ont réquisitionné du grain, elles l'ont fait suivant les principes admis du droit international, tout en respectant la vie et l'honneur de tous les habitants, ce que du reste les plaignants eux-mêmes ne contestent pas.

Mais si le Gouvernement Princier est hors d'état de donner suite à des plaintes aussi peu définies, il n'en est pas moins disposé à faire examiner chaque réclamation spéciale, et à cet effet je vous autorise, M. le Ministre, à recevoir et à me transmettre toute plainte qui vous serait présentée, pourvu qu'elle soit spécifiée et accompagnée de preuves.

Veuillez, M. le Ministre, donner lû où vous le jugerez nécessaire des éclaircissements dans le sens de ce qui précède, et être persuadé que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse attache le plus haut prix à prouver de fait que les non-Chrétiens, comme les Chrétiens, trouveront toujours en Serbie la protection des lois tant pour leur sécurité personnelle que pour celle de leurs biens.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

No. 220.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 6, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 209 of the 23rd ultimo relative to the alleged occupation by Servia of a bank of Turkish territory fifteen miles in breadth on the old frontier between the Kapunik and Rauza, on the River Ibar, I have to state that this violation of the prescriptions of the Treaty of Berlin is strenuously denied by the Servian Government, and that the Porte has hitherto failed to adduce any proofs in support of this allegation.

There is consequently good reason to believe the Ottoman Government has been misinformed on this point by the local Turkish authorities and other parties interested in misrepresenting the real facts of the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 221.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 66.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day dispatched to the Foreign Office the following telegram in cypher:—

"No. 66. With reference to your Lordship's telegram to Sir Henry Layard, No. 890, which has been communicated to me. At an interview with the Russian Commissioner this day, he assured me that he has sent to St. Petersburgh all documents bearing on the points in dispute, and also the map showing the frontier traced by the Russians and Turks. This map should reach St. Petersburgh about this date. The map described by Mr. Plunkett would appear, therefore, to be superseded, and the point mentioned by him is probably that of the Treaty of San Stefano.

"It should be remembered, however, that the terminal point of the frontier so traced was not the point shown me in Commission, which point I was prepared to accept, and is at variance with the project of frontier inclosed in my despatch No. 23, which distinctly mentions the frontier as following the watershed. In fact, the Russian point belongs to a system of frontier which has been abandoned with the surrender of the point Y.

"The map mentioned in your Lordship's telegram No. 8 has been promised."

As the copy of the last-mentioned map may not arrive from Tiflis for some little time, my Russian colleague tells me, I have caused another tracing to be made of the country near Karaourgan. This tracing I have the honour herewith to inclose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 222.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 2, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to furnish your Lordship with a brief Report on the nature of the country, and its condition, so far as concerns the zone through which I travelled in performance of my duties as member of the Commission for the Delimitation of the Southern Frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

The vilage of Musrek, about 9 kilom. from Mustafa-Pasha, remains to Turkey, is situated at the foot of the Bestepedagh; it is Bulgarian, of from sixty to seventy houses, and did not suffer during the war.

The Bestepedagh is a thickly wooded range of about 3,000 feet in height, it is a continuation of the watershed commencing at Cadir Tepe, and which separates the River Maritza and its affluents on the north from those of the rivers Mesta Kara Su and the Arda with their respective affluents on the south.

Wheeled vehicles from Musrek to the valley of the Arda must take a long detour round the western slopes of the range, but there are bridle paths which traverse it and lead to the villages Kurtkiaj and Kiresli.

Urumkiaj and Kurtkiaj are the only two Christian villages south of the watershed in its neighbourhood; the latter remains to Turkey, and the former comes under the administration of Eastern Roumelia.

Adaeali, which in accordance with the Treaty remains to Turkey, is on the left bank of the Arda, and not on the right, as indicated on the Austrian Staff Map. It was deserted by the Turks during the war, but not destroyed, and the inhabitants have of late returned.

In making the reconnaissance of the frontier, the Commission was met on the heights of the Bestepedagh by Eastern Roumelian outposts, men armed with different

varieties of breech-loading rifles, but wearing no sort of uniform. On inquiry they stated that they belonged to the village of Halvandere.

From near Adacali, as far as Jallazlikdere, the River Arda forms the frontier. This belt of country, which is bounded on the north by the range of hills between the rivers Maritza and Arda, is essentially Mahommedan. The villages are more numerous even than shown on the Austrian Map, the inhabitants a pure and fine race of Turks (not Pomaks), and extremely industrious, and evidently very averse to coming under the administration of Eastern Roumelia. There is only one Christian village, Juluk-kiaj, it is situated on the right bank of the Arda, and consequently remains to Turkey; its inhabitants in no way suffered during the war, and from all reports appear to be on the most friendly terms with the Turks.

The River Arda, between the villages of Hadji Oglulari and Adacali, forces its way through a high range of mountains, occasionally opening out into valleys of from 4 to 5 miles long by 3 to 4 miles broad. These valleys are highly cultivated; and I have never seen in any country richer or heavier grain; this year towards the end of July the crops were being gathered.

The villages are very numerous on both banks of the river; the houses generally of stone and well built; the inhabitants, hard working, women as well as men, work in the fields. The slopes of the hills are cultivated up to their summits, and, in fact, every available piece of arable ground appears to be turned to account.

The breadth of the river is from 80 to 150 yards, consisting of rapids and pools, and during the summer or dry season fords are numerous.

The road leading up the valley from Adacali as far as the village Ada (about 30 kilom.) is passable for wheeled vehicles, the one taken by the Commission keeps to the left bank of the river passing by the villages of Akbas and Hussunkiaj to Adunler; between the two latter villages the valley is about 5 miles long by 3 miles in breadth. Between Hussenkiaj and Adacali the river forces its way through high hills, in many places precipitous rocky banks, and there is no practicable road following the banks of the river.

Close to the village of Ada the river is crossed by ford; from this village the road is no longer practicable for country carts, and pack animals have to be engaged.

To continue the ascent of the valley above Ada, the river is recrossed, and a spur on the left bank traversed by an indifferent hill road which passes through several villages and regains the valley close to the village of Akbounar, and crosses the river by ford exactly opposite the Christian village of Juluk-kiaj, about twelve miles above Ada, and, then keeping to the right bank, passes through the village of Terz-i-kiaj and recrosses the river at Delikler; the former village is one of considerable importance, consisting of about 500 houses.

The Commission was here met by about 700 to 800 Turks, all of whom were perfectly quiet and orderly.

Terz-i-kiaj is connected both with the Maritza and southern valleys by a road passable only for ponies.

From Terz-i-kiaj, until it recrosses the river at Delikler, the road is level and good, when it mounts a spur and redescends into the valley by Jerdzalū to Kerdzililar.

Kerdzililar is a large and well-built village on the left bank of the Arda, with a population of about 3,000 inhabitants. It is the village of one of the insurgent Chiefs named Kara Yussef, who obtained considerable notoriety during the war, and is credited with possessing much influence with the people of this district, and it was reported that even now he holds all the passes which lead to this part of the valley of the Arda from the valley of the Maritza.

The valley of Kirdzililar is about the same extent as that of Adunler, before alluded to, and is as well cultivated.

Kara Yussef accompanied the Commission from the 28th June to the 3rd July, and doubtless was instrumental in preventing our meeting with any obstruction or annoyance on the part of the inhabitants, who are reported to be opposed to incorporation with the province of Eastern Roumelia.

Soon after leaving Kirdzililar, the road recrosses to the right bank of the Arda, and becomes very bad and barely practicable for laden ponies or mules.

From a height on the right bank I noticed, close to the village of Kuridziviran on the left bank, that the Arda is spanned by a fine solid masonry bridge, but was informed that there was no practicable road for horses leading to it.

The road descends into the valley opposite to the village of Hadji-Oglulari which is gained by ford.

It is at about this point that the river Arda no longer forms a part of the frontier.

After careful reconnaissance, the Commission selected to regain the watershed by means of a broad and well-defined valley named Jalladzik-dere, and accept it as frontier to a point about 2 kilom. above the village of Hassan-kiaj, leaving it to Turkey.

Thence the frontier adopted is another affluent which flows into the Jalladzik-dere, and called Kisi-kieuy-dere, and which takes its source from a rocky peak of the same name, situated on the main watershed between the Maritza and the Arda.

Kisi-kieuy-dagh is about 5,500 feet high, and, in point of fact, is about where Isiklar-dagh is indicated on the Austrian Staff Map. The latter mountain is certainly not on the main range as shown, and it is doubtful whether it exists, as the name appears to be unknown to the people of the country.

The tracks from the village of Hadji-Oglulari to the watershed are extremely bad, and barely practicable for laden ponies or mules.

On the watershed there is a mountain road, which by Kisi-kieuy-dagh takes a northerly direction, and descends into the Maritza Valley; it appeared to be a good deal used by Pomaks conveying on mules timber down to Philippopolis and its neighbourhood.

From Kisi-kieuy-dagh to Karakolas-dagh there is no difficulty in recognizing the frontier-line as defined by the Treaty of Berlin; the direction is generally south-west; the two mountains rise to an elevation of nearly 6,000 feet, and are connected by a low saddle not more than 3,000 feet high. This saddle is at the head of the Aubadere Valley, and which, by the Austrian Map, is nearly 20 kilom. from Karakolas, whereas, in reality, it is little over 3 kilom.

There is a north and south road from Dolasler, and which crosses the range by a pass of about 5,000 feet, and close to the west of Karakolas-dagh; this pass was held by armed Turks who certainly were not soldiers.

From Karakolas-dagh to Cepelle-dagh, a distance of about 50 kilom., the frontier passes through a wild, mountainous country, at an average height of about 5,000 feet; the range is, in parts, densely wooded; the road along the watershed is fairly good. There are no villages to be seen in the valleys on either side, occasionally a few hamlets belonging to the Pomaks, owners of flocks of cattle, &c., which are brought to graze on the mountains during the summer months. The general direction is about south-west, and the Austrian Map ceases to be a guide; the northern loop as shown does not exist.

The first road which crosses the range is about 6 miles on the east of Cepelle-dagh, and leads to the villages of the Upper Arda.

The next road leads from Philippopolis to Pasmakly, by the Cepelle Pass, which is rather over 6,000 feet above the sea.

Cepelle-dagh is connected with Calluk-dagh (7,500 feet) by a densely wooded saddle; a road from Pasmakly crosses this saddle, and descends into the Maritza Valley by the Nitza River.

When encamped near the Calluk mountain, some 200 to 300 Bulgarians came from a village near Pasmakly begging that their village might be given to Eastern Roumelia; they were perfectly orderly, and quiet, and left when it was explained to them that we had no voice in the matter.

From Calluk the watershed continues to be of the same wild mountainous nature, and at a mean height of about 5,000 feet.

The Commission, after careful reconnaissance, clearly established that Krusowa-dagh is on the watershed. It is not a mountain, as indicated by the termination "dagh," but an elevated plain of about 6,200 feet above the sea, and from which various streams radiate and form affluents of the Maritza and Mesta Kara Su respectively. Its position is more to the west and not so far to the south as indicated on the Austrian Staff Map.

The country is wild and desolate, and very few villages, which are inhabited by the Pomaks.

Kustendjik and Lulpu will come under Eastern Roumelian administration. Jilundyi, Jenikiaj, and Bazutinkiaj remain to Turkey.

Krusowa-dagh is clearly connected with the Despoto-dagh by the watershed which separates the waters of the Maritza from those of the Mesta Kara Su.

At the village of Kustendjik I regret to say that I got a severe attack of fever. I continued my work with the Commission as far as the road to Batuk, when, not being able to shake off the fever, my colleagues considered that it would be unnecessary for me to accompany them to Cadir Tepe, about 60 to 70 kilom. distant, especially as my Assistant-Lieutenant de Wolski, R.E., had been sent ahead to that

point, and with a Russian topographist had made a reconnaissance survey to within three or four hours from the Batak road, where it crosses the frontier.

I remained four days in the hills, and then moved down to Philippopolis, where I learnt that the remainder of the Commission had already passed through on their way to Constantinople.

The road to Tatar-Bazardjik by Batak is the best road, though a mountain one, that I have travelled on from the Black Sea to this part of the country.

It crosses the watershed at about 6,000 feet above the sea, is about 14 feet broad, paved in many parts, and built up where required. It crosses the stream, running through the villages of Batak and Pestire, frequently by strong wooden bridges supported on masonry piers. Though at present in places out of repair, it would not require a great amount of labour to restore. Though within a distance of under 30 miles, it descends about 4,000 feet; the gradients are not excessive.

The village of Batak has been completely rebuilt, and the inhabitants have returned; they showed no ill-feeling against the Turks, and readily furnished my escort with food for themselves and forage for their horses.

From Batak I sent back across the frontier my Turkish escort, and intended to have discharged my muleteers and obtained fresh transport, but the muleteers, who were Pomaks, begged that I would take them on with me to Philippopolis in order that they might have the opportunity of there buying merchandize to carry back with them to their own country. I kept them on, and they were perfectly well treated; obtained passports at Philippopolis and returned with their mules laden.

I observed that at Pestire, Kredjino, Ustine, and other large villages in Eastern Roumelia, that the Turks were gradually returning, and that they appeared to be on good terms with the Bulgarians.

At Batak I was met by Consul Calvert, and through him I learnt that the Commission had been accompanied from Mustafa-Pasha by Ahmed Pasha. This man appears to have been the instigator of the massacre of Bulgarians at Batak in 1876, and I was informed by Mr. Calvert that there was no doubt about his being the same man, and who was condemned to death, which penalty was subsequently commuted to exile for life, but that lately he has received a free pardon, and that the country people speak of his probably being appointed Kaïmakam of Baru-Tukiaj.

I am of opinion that it is to be regretted that a man with such antecedents should have been associated with a European Commission.

I would have reported this matter to your Lordship by telegram had I not been aware that Consul-General Michell had already done so.

Immediately on my arrival at Constantinople I brought it to the notice of his Excellency Sir Henry Layard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

No. 223.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 49.) *Buyukdéré, August 5, 1879.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that at the twenty-fourth séance of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, after the matter described in my No. 48 was disposed of, the question of the right of way for Turkish troops through the southern part of the Sandjak of Sofia came before it. The Russian Commissioner disputed the competence of the Commission to discuss this question, on the ground that the term "La Commission Européenne"* is too indefinite to be taken as our authority. He also said that the agreement of the Russian Plenipotentiaries to the principle of conceding the passage applied to a different state of things, that it was based on incorrect information furnished by Mehemet Ali, and that a sufficient road for the purpose exists in Turkish territory.

On the President asking if this were his own opinion only, or that of his Government, he replied that he had only his general instructions to guide him, and would take the responsibility on himself; and he announced his intention of withdrawing

* Protocol 17, Congress of Berlin.

from the discussion, and of refusing to sign the proceedings of the Commission, in case they should come to a vote on it. A vote would, nevertheless, have been taken on the question of competence, had not the Russian Commissioner, on the suggestion of Colonel Orero, stated that he would take the opinion of his Government on the matter, and be prepared to inform us of the result in about ten days. The German Commissioner also desired to consult his Government, and the question was therefore postponed, there being no object in pressing it under present circumstances.

It appears to me that, in case of further difficulties, this question, not being one of delimitation, might be made separate from, and supplementary to, the main business of the Commission, in order to avoid the difficulty of the refusal of the Russian Commissioner to sign a document containing the decision on it.

It also appears to me, and, I think, to most of my colleagues, that, after the fixing of the road, the only measures to be taken by us respecting it would be those described in my despatch No. 46. No possible good could, it seems, result either from again visiting a road so well-known as that of Banja-Sanakow, Kustendjil (the one which would presumably be assigned), or from interviews with the local authorities.

When, according to your Lordship's instructions, I mentioned this subject to my Turkish colleague on his return from the western frontier, he said he had taken no steps in the matter, and did not seem to have any instructions about it; and at the late meeting he said nothing which could make it appear that the Turkish Government has hitherto attached importance to it.

If I might be permitted to offer my own view, I would beg leave to say that I do not see in what case the privilege could be of use to Turkey. Under the Treaty of San Stefano it was different, because that would have effected a complete separation by land between her eastern and western provinces. But now, in time of peace, Turkey would always, I presume, prefer to communicate with Uskup and Pristina (the districts which are the objects of the proposed concession) by rail from Salonica rather than by the route in question. Also, if Turkey can maintain no considerable bodies of troops between her own proper frontier and that of Eastern Roumelia, it is not evident how she should find use for communications between the districts of Rahmanli, Ichtiman, and Tatar-Bazardjik on the one side, and those of Uskup and Pristina on the other (these are the districts named in the Protocols, for communication between which the concession was demanded). The only case in which considerable Turkish forces could be assembled in Eastern Roumelia would be that of an imminent attack upon that province, in which case, if Bulgaria were hostile, the road would, of course, be closed, and, whether she were hostile or not, of no apparent use.

Supposing even that Turkey should find reason to make use of the privilege, the transit of her troops through Bulgaria would certainly have a very irritating effect. Finally, it would obviously be well that Turkey should create a road of communication between her provinces entirely within her own frontier, when all reason for desiring a passage through Bulgaria would cease; and that is the course which it appears to me most desirable to recommend to her with regard to the matter in question. There is no doubt, however, that Russia has conceded the right of way through Bulgaria in principle, if it be considered expedient to insist on it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 224.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Servian Boundary Commission, Belgrade, August 6, 1879.*

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatch No. 5, dated the 19th June, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have learnt from the Prefect of Alexinatz that 3,000 Servian families proposed quitting the neighbourhood of Trn and Broznik, for the purpose of entering the Principality of Servia, and that arrangements were being made for their reception, the Servian Government granting each family a strip of land, freedom from taxation for three years, and a bounty of 20 ducats (about 9*l.*).

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 225.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord, *Servian Boundary Commission, Belgrade, August* 6, 1879.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 16 of the 2nd July, I have the honour to transmit herewith notes of the proceedings of the Commission at the meetings of the 14th July, the 16th July, the 20th July, the 30th July, and the 6th August, drawn up by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg.

On the 7th July the Commission commenced the delimitation of the Servo-Turkish frontier northward from Crni Carmen, to which point the frontier was marked last year. The delimitation of the new frontier following a line of watershed, as laid down in Article XXXVI of the Berlin Treaty, was completed on the 12th July to a point about 2 miles south of Prepolac.

Several proposals as to the trace of the new frontier at Prepolac were examined on the ground, and discussed on the 13th July and two following days, but without definite result, the Commission having failed to come to an unanimous decision. Arrangements were accordingly made for a survey of Prepolac on a sufficiently large scale to admit of the several proposals being accurately recorded on the survey plan.

On the 16th July the Commission proceeded with the tracing of the new frontier from a point 2 miles north of Prepolac, and followed the watershed line to Vralo, about 10 miles south of the Kapaonik. From Vralo the new frontier was traced to the Kapaonik, where junction was effected on the 20th July with the old Servian frontier.

On the same day the Commission arrived at an unanimous agreement respecting the trace of the new frontier at Prepolac, the Turkish, Austrian, and Servian Commissioners giving their acceptance conditionally, *ad referendum*, to their respective Governments. Acting on this agreement the Commission returned to Prepolac on the 23rd July, and marked the frontier there provisionally.

Since that date the Austrian and Servian Governments have signified their acceptance of the frontier marked at Prepolac, and the Turkish Commissioner has informed the Commission that the answer from the Porte may be expected within the next three days.

The Commission having completed the delimitation of the new Servo-Turkish frontier returned to Belgrade on the 28th July, and proceeded with the preparation of the record plans of the new frontier. The series of maps illustrative of the new Servo-Bulgarian boundary having been completed, a duplicate set was forwarded on the 3rd instant to the Bulgarian Commission, in accordance with the agreement reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 10 of the 15th June.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 226.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Servian Boundary Commission, Belgrade, August* 6, 1879.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship to-day by telegraph, through Mr. Gould, that Colonel Djevad Bey had been replaced as Turkish Commissioner by the late Turkish Commissioner-General, Yahya Pasha, who arrived here last night.

I understand that the Sublime Porte, in reappointing General Yahya Pasha, had no intention to express disapprobation of the proceedings of Colonel Djevad Bey, the Turkish Commissioner during the recent delimitation of the Turco-Servian frontier, General Yahya Pasha having been ordered to reassume the duties of Commissioner, in consequence of having recovered his health.

Although I have no official cognizance of this, I believe the above explanation to be correct, and I have no reason to believe that General Yahya Pasha's reappointment will cause any delay in completing the work of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Sketch No. 2

CROQUIS DES ENVIRONS DE PREPOLAC.

Annexed to notes on the 17th Meeting 14th July 1879.

Echelle

Miles

Kilomètres

Les Hauteurs sont en Mètres.

Le partage des eaux

France Austrian proposition

Modification suggested by British Commissioner

Modifications agreed to by the Commission in the

France Austrian proposition (Turkish Comm. alone dissenting)

Inclosure 1 in No. 226.

Notes of the 17th Meeting.

MEETING held at Prepolac on the 14th July, 1879.

All the Commissioners were present.

1. Colonel on the Staff Djevad Bey is presented to the Commission as the new Ottoman Commissioner, in the place of Major-General Yahya Pasha, who having become ill returned to Constantinople.

2. The Commission having requested the Turkish and Servian Commissioners to present proposals regarding the frontier line at Prepolac, Colonel Djevad Bey and Colonel Milutin Jovanovich submitted their propositions (see Sketch No. 1 annexed).

The Commission voted on both these proposals, and both were rejected.

A third Project was submitted to the Commission jointly by the French and Austrian Commissioners (see Sketch No. 2 annexed).

The British Commissioner suggested that a modification should be made to this line. He was of opinion that a triangle of territory should be added to Turkey in order to neutralize the most commanding height in the neighbourhood (see Sketch No. 2). As this proposal, however, met with no support from either of the interested parties, it was not accepted.

The Commission was then adjourned for the purpose of giving time to examine, on the ground, the proposition moved by the French and Austrian Commissioners.

Inclosure 2 in No. 226.

Notes of the 18th Meeting.

MEETING held at Prepolac the 16th July, 1879.

All the Commissioners were present.

The proposition submitted by the French and Austrian Commissioners was discussed.

The Italian and Russian Commissioners were of opinion that the watershed should be accepted as the frontier at Prepolac, modifying it only in so far as the road to Pristina was concerned, so that the communication there should be left free to the inhabitants.

Major Velini produced the Report of the Italian Military Attaché at Berlin, who formed part of the Military Commission which sat at that capital during the Congress of Berlin. This document formed part of his instructions, and it affirmed that the Austrian proposal for the frontier at Prepolac was the crest line. Major Velini therefore believed that Count St. Vallier in his speech (Protocol No. 19, Congress of Berlin) referred to the watershed, when he explained that "Le Congrès n'a pas entendu pousser la concession au-delà du retour pur et simple à la ligne Autrichienne."

The British Commissioner said that he had no knowledge of this document, nor of the view taken by his Italian colleague, that Count St. Vallier referred to the Austrian proposal made in the Military Commission at Berlin. If the Congress had meant to embody that proposal in the Treaty they would have described the frontier as a watershed (as they had always done), and they would not have added "laissent Prepolac à la Turquie;" words which, according to Major Velini's explanation, appear to be superfluous. In fact, the Congress of Berlin must have been of opinion that Prepolac was either to the north or to the south of the crest line. If to the south, why is there any mention made of that village in the text of the Treaty, when it would naturally remain Turkish by tracing the frontier on the watershed? But if to the north, then the frontier would have to cross the crest, in order to give the village to Turkey; and if so, the Austrian line, according to Major Velini's interpretation, would no longer be an exact watershed, as it ought to be, to carry out the words of Count St. Vallier in the sense indicated by the Italian Commissioner. It seems to Captain Anderson, therefore, that the interpretation given by his colleague of Count St. Vallier's words involves a difficulty; and that allusion was made instead, to the Austrian Project printed as an Appendix to No. 8 Protocol, and defined with greater precision in No. 15 Protocol of the Congress of Berlin.

Several modifications to the Franco-Austrian line were adopted. These were minor amendments, with a view to secure to Turkey the whole of the houses of

Prepolac, and to give to Servia a pathway situated north of the crest-line, as well as a site for a custom-house (see Sketch No. 2 annexed to the Notes on the 17th Meeting, the 14th July, 1879).

The proposition was then submitted to a vote, and accepted by the whole Commission except by the Ottoman Commissioner, who referred to his Government.

In the meanwhile it was decided to proceed towards Kanilug, and there to await the answer from the Porte.

Inclosure 3 in No. 226.

Notes of the 19th Meeting.

MEETING held at Crnaiova, near Kanilug, the 20th July, 1879.

All the Commissioners were present.

1. The old boundary of the Sandjak of Nisch was not to be found on the ground, nor were the reports of the Turkish inhabitants of a nature to fix it anywhere near the data given on the Treaty Map. The Commission, therefore, decided to follow as far as practicable the dotted line shown on that map, and to accept that trace as the western limits of the Sandjak of Nisch.

There was some uncertainty also about the true position of Kanilug upon the ground, the point indicated by the Servians not corresponding with the position of that height upon the Treaty Map; moreover, the inhabitants from Novi-Bazar when asked to point out Kanilug stated that it was not to be found in the neighbourhood.

All the Commissioners, except the British and Turkish Representatives, were, however, of opinion that the Servian Kanilug should be accepted, because, as it was impracticable to trace the frontier in the deep valleys to the west of the Kapaonik (as marked on the Austrian Staff Map), and as, therefore, the crest was followed as long as possible, they thought that compensation should be given to the Principality in this district.

The British Commissioner, while combating this view, was of opinion that the position of Kanilug should be determined by the Commission in a manner similar to that in which the position of Mount Radocina was obtained on the Bulgaro-Servian frontier, and that a line should be traced up to this point as the new frontier.

This view was accepted, and a Sub-Commission was formed by the British, Italian, and Russian Commissioners to propose such a line to the Commission.

This line, after being slightly modified by the Ottoman Representative, was agreed to, some allowance being made to Servia for the ground which was not added to the Principality near the Socanica Valley, that is, where the crest was followed, instead of the line on the Treaty Map, which is to the west of the watershed of the Kapaonik Planina.

2. The question of Prepolac was once more reopened.

The Turkish Commissioner proposed a new line, which he hoped would be acceptable to the whole Commission. He added, however, that having already written to the Porte on this subject, he would be obliged to refer also the present project to his Government. He, therefore, submitted it to his colleagues *ad referendum* (see Sketch No. 3, annexed).

The Servian Commissioner having accepted the proposal of the Turkish Representative *ad referendum* also, the French Commissioner stated that as the line which he had proposed in common with his Austrian colleague was submitted by him merely for the purpose of uniting the divergent views of the interested parties, and as the new proposal emanating from Djevad Bey had had that success which his own had not, he hastened to give his adhesion to the line of frontier proposed by his Turkish colleague.

The British Commissioner said he would vote for the Ottoman proposal, seeing that by it a practical solution of the question has been arrived at, which satisfied the interested parties.

The rest of the Commission also accepted this line, except the Austrian Representative, who did so *ad referendum* to his Government.

It was decided to return to Prepolac, and to mark the new frontier provisionally on the ground, in accordance with the agreement which had just been concluded.

Sketch No. 3.

CROQUIS DES ENVIRONS DE PREPOLAC.

Annexed to notes on the 19th Meeting 20th July 1879

par John Ross of Bladensburg, Lieutenant, Coldstream Guards

Echelle 1/63000

Mètres

Kilomètres

Les Hauteurs sont en Mètres

Le partage des eaux

Proposition of Turkish Commissioner and accepted by the Comrs 20th July 1879

Inclosure 4 in No. 226.

Notes of the 20th Meeting.

MEETING held at Belgrade the 30th July, 1879.

All the Commissioners were present.

1. The Servian Commissioner stated that he was authorized to accept definitely the Turkish proposition on the frontier line at Prepolac, submitted to the Commission at Crnatova on the 20th July, 1879, in the 19th meeting.

2. The Commission proceeded to discuss the Mali Zvornik question.

The Ottoman Commissioner stated that he had no instructions either to go or not to go to Mali Zvornik, but for himself he had no particular interest to proceed there.

The Austrian and Servian Commissioners also stated that there were no questions at Mali Zvornik, both parties were in actual occupation of the ground which belonged to them by the Treaty of Berlin, and they saw no necessity for the Commission to go there.

The Commission decided, therefore—seeing that the interested parties were satisfied, that the nature of the ground admitted of no doubt as to where the frontier ran, and that the Treaty line was purely a natural frontier—that it was unnecessary for them to proceed there.

Inclosure 5 in No. 226.

Notes of the 21st Meeting.

MEETING held at Belgrade the 6th August, 1879.

All the Commissioners were present.

1. Major-General Yahya Pasha having arrived at Belgrade took his place as the Ottoman Commissioner.

2. The Austrian Commissioner informed his colleagues that his Government had permitted him to accept the line which had been traced out at Prepolac, in accordance with the proposition emanating from the Ottoman Commissioner at Crnatova on the 20th July, 1879, and mentioned in the 19th meeting.

3. The President having asked Yahya Pasha when the answer of the Porte about Prepolac might be expected, received for a reply that it might arrive within two or three days.

No. 227.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 12.*)

(No. 492. Confidential.)

Vienna, August 8, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY spoke to me to-day in terms of the most lively recognition of the continued efforts of Sir H. Layard to bring the Sultan to show himself more favourably disposed towards Count Zichy, who had reported that His Majesty, who had invited him to dinner, had held language which appeared to indicate a wish to place more confidence in the Imperial Government than he had up to the present time showed any disposition to do.

The Sultan told Count Zichy that he was satisfied of Great Britain and Austria being the only countries to which he could look for support, and that, seeing the good understanding prevailing between them, he was determined, as far as lay with him, to rely upon their friendly feelings.

His Majesty had also alluded to the Secret Article of the Novi-Bazar Convention, which, he said, he had been obliged to object to, "because it did not go far enough;" but he hinted that he would not now be indisposed to accept it.

Count Andrassy says that he would still be willing to take the engagement contained in that Article, but that he must first have the evidence of facts showing that the Porte was carrying out the arrangements of the Convention loyally and in a conciliatory spirit, and that the confidence in Austria that is now expressed is real, and not confined to mere words. He had every reason to be satisfied with the spirit in

which Husni Pasha was conducting the negotiations with the Duke of Wurtemberg; but the Pasha was obliged to refer almost every question to Constantinople for confirmation, and Count Zichy had therefore been instructed to ask that sufficient powers should be sent to the Ottoman Commissioner to settle upon his own authority the matters of detail which, according to the Convention, were to be discussed and arranged on the spot.

His Excellency repeated to me, what I already had the honour of stating to your Lordship, that he does not propose that an Austrian garrison should now be sent to Bielopol, but he is very anxious that in one, at least, of the two other places named in the Convention, and which lies nearer the frontier of the Novi-Bazar Sandjak, which it is intended to occupy, there should at the same time be an Ottoman garrison, so that the Porte, while exercising the right reserved to it, should give evidence to the populations that it regarded the Austrians as a friendly, and not as a hostile, Power.

It appears strange, and also unwise, on the part of the Sultan, that at a time when he is professing himself anxious to cultivate good relations with Austria, he should have thought to honour the notorious Mufti of Jashlydji, and to lodge him, as is stated, in the Imperial Palace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 228.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 494. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I AM informed by Count Andrassy that M. Boëresco having told him of his intention to go from here first to St. Petersburgh and then to Berlin, he had expressed himself strongly against it, saying that he saw no reason for his going to Russia at all; but that if he must do so he should, at least, go to Berlin in the first instance; his business was with the Powers which had not yet recognized the independence of Roumania, and he ought not to waste his time with those which had.

M. de Boëresco said that he had come to Vienna in the hopes of inducing the Imperial Government to support the proposals he was going to make to the other Cabinets; but Count Andrassy replied that he was not disposed to undertake to do so, for although he would be content with any arrangement that might satisfy the other Cabinets, he was personally in favour of the maintenance of the categories contained in M. Stourdza's Project, which M. Boëresco now proposed to set aside. It was not, he added, to be supposed that because Austria, as a limitrophe country, had acted differently from those not so situated by at once accrediting a Minister to Bucharest, she intended to separate herself from them in the slightest degree on the question of the emancipation of the Jews.

Count Andrassy observed to me that as the only conceivable object of M. Boëresco in going to St. Petersburgh (unless it is a device for gaining time) must be to endeavour to get assistance in resisting or eluding the demands of the other Governments, he does not think it likely that he will receive much encouragement at Berlin to prosecute that undesirable portion of his journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 229.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 495.)
Vienna, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to the Austrian Government a representation from the Porte respecting the ill-treatment to which the Mussulmans are subjected in Servia, and has been promised that the Imperial Minister at Belgrade shall exert himself in their favour.

It does not appear to be doubted here that the complaints are well-founded, and it is also believed that an unwillingness to have official witnesses of the oppression is at the bottom of the difficulties made by the Servian Government in permitting the establishment of a Turkish Consulate at Nisch.

As there are a considerable number of Austro-Hungarian subjects in that district, the establishment of an Austrian Consular Agent in it is likely soon to be insisted upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 230.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 496.)
Vienna, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE asked Count Andrassy what he now thought respecting the occupation of Bourgas by the Turks, in favour of which, as soon as the Russian evacuation was complete, he had previously expressed himself very strongly.

He said that the excessive weakness of the Turkish Government made him feel some doubt upon the subject, though there was a great danger that if the Porte did not before long assert its rights both in regard to Bourgas and the Balkan frontier, it might finish by entirely losing them.

He proposed to direct Count Károlyi to ascertain what your Lordship thought upon the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 231.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 497. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

M. DE GIERS has said to the Austrian Minister at St. Petersburgh that he hoped the opinion of the majority of the East Roumelian Commission upon the question of the nomination of the officers of the posts and telegraphs was not to be regarded as final.

The Austrian Government had given no special instructions to Baron Kallay upon the line he was to adopt in reference to it, beyond saying that they would be glad that the appointments should rest with the Porte, unless it would be contrary to the Organic Statute.

It was they said a question of the interpretation of the Statute, of which the Commissioner was best qualified to judge.

M. de Giers' observation to the Austrian Minister is taken as another proof of the indisposition of the Russian Government to be satisfied with anything done by the Commission that does not fall in with their view; but it is not expected that the Russian Government will ask that the Commission shall be directed to reconsider a matter upon which their opinion has admittedly no compulsory force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 232.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 498.)
Vienna, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY tells me that he proposes to ask whether in your Lordship's opinion it is desirable that the East Roumelian Commission should be any longer maintained.

He is aware that not long ago your Lordship doubted whether the time would not shortly come for dissolving it, and he seems to consider that period to have arrived, but he will, I believe, be entirely guided by your Lordship's opinion upon it.

The neglect of the Porte to elaborate and communicate to the Commission the regulations for the provinces constitutes a difficulty of which Count Andrassy recognizes the reality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 233.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 11, 1879, 6·15 P.M.*

ROUMANIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs arrived here on the 9th, and left last night for St. Petersburgh. He will return here probably on Saturday next. He then intends to proceed to Paris and London, and, I believe, Rome.

I forward a copy of new proposals in full by post to-night. They were sent yesterday to German Representative in London, who is instructed to consult with your Lordship. They are not considered satisfactory, but no decision will be taken until opinion of the other Cabinets interested is known. German Government consider it very important that Roumanian Minister should be told that the Cabinets are in perfect accord with regard to this matter, and would have been glad, therefore, if he could have learnt this direct from your Lordship; but, from a telegram I have just received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, I imagine you will not be in London after the 12th.

No. 234.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 11, 1879, 2·30 P.M.*

PERTEFIN PASHA has arrived, and has presented the Firman. He was received with the same ceremony as a foreign Diplomatic Agent, and dined with the Prince and Minister for Foreign Affairs, when the health of the Sultan was drunk. He brought no decoration, but the Prince gave him a handsome present.

No. 235.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, August 11, 1879, 7·10 P.M.*

I AM confidentially informed by Her Majesty's Commissioner that the Russian Commissioner states his Government is negotiating to obtain immediately the services of the Servian Commissioner for the revision of the Turkish (Arab-Tabia) frontier.

In his opinion, in which I fully concur, Servian Commissioner is unfit, both in temper and capacity, to undertake such a task, Russian calculation being probably that she will thus be able to secure majority in favour of her view. French and German Commissioners are unfavourable, while Italian Commissioner is favourably inclined to the [?] Russian proposal.

(Above sent to Sir H. Elliot.)

No. 236.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 12, 1879, 4·30 P.M.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me this morning that on Sunday last Albanian band crossed the Servian frontier, and reached as far as Tlishan, where they were met by troops, and obliged to retire, leaving three killed. His Excellency could not state their force. He did not consider the incursion as serious, stating that the frontier was now reported quiet. In consequence of the past events, it is urged that the Ottoman Government should take precautions, by means of sufficient regular Turkish troops, to prevent a new invasion.

(Above communicated to Sir Henry Layard.)

No. 237.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 12, 1879.*

WITH reference to Mr. Gould's telegram of the 11th instant, nothing is known here of a proposal for a Servian Commissioner to take part in the Arab-Tabia discussion.

Baron Calice does not believe that the Russians will put forward a proposal for which no plausible pretext could be given, but he will telegraph to Austrian Minister at Belgrade to report whether he has heard anything about it.

No. 238.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 609.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 12, 1879, 11·30 A.M.*

I HAVE every hope of getting Baker Pasha appointed.

Safvet Pasha told me yesterday that Sultan had given orders for it, and I ought to hear something on the subject from His Majesty, with whom I am dining to-day.

No. 239.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 80.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 12, 1879.*

I INFORMED you to-day, by telegraph, that I had been requested by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires to delay the departure of the Commissioners of Delimitation from Servia until the arrival of a communication which his Government desires to make, and which is expected to arrive in a day or so; and I directed you to give instructions in this sense to Captain Anderson.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 240.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 12, 1879, 7·50 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires requests that the Commissioners of Delimitation may not leave Servia till his Government has had opportunity of making a communication, which will be in a few days.

Instruct Captain Anderson accordingly.

No. 241.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 706.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a translation of the Berat of Investiture delivered to the Prince of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 241.

Proclamation.

AU Prince Alexandre, élevé à la dignité de Prince de Bulgarie, savoir, faisons :—
Aux termes de l'Article III du Traité de Berlin, l'Assemblée convoquée dernièrement à Tirnova à l'effet de procéder au choix d'un Prince pour la Bulgarie, qui, tout en faisant partie intégrante de notre Empire, vient d'être érigée en Principauté, a porté son choix sur votre Altesse, vu la capacité, l'intelligence, la profonde connaissance des affaires et la droiture, toutes qualités qui caractérisent votre personne.

Ce choix, soumis à ma sanction Impériale ayant été également approuvé, la Principauté de Bulgarie avec ses limites indiquées dans le Traité de Berlin a été confiée à la capacité et l'intelligence de votre Altesse. Et conformément à mes ordres, ce Reserit Impérial est émané de mon Divan Impérial à l'effet de rendre publique et notoire la haute charge qui vous est confiée.

Ainsi j'ai lieu d'espérer que votre Altesse dans sa haute intelligence et en conformité des devoirs qui incombent à sa charge, respectera toujours les droits de notre suzeraineté sur la Principauté, qui fait partie intégrante de notre Empire, comme il vient d'être dit plus haut ; elle s'appliquera sans cesse à consolider et à développer les liens qui attachent la dite Principauté à notre Empire. De même, tout en préservant de toute atteinte les dispositions du dit Traité, elle portera toute sa sollicitude au développement de la prospérité et de la tranquillité du pays, comme elle veillera aussi à la bonne administration, au bien-être, et à la sauvegarde des droits religieux, politiques et civils de tous les habitants, tant Musulmans que non-Musulmans, conformément au principe d'une égalité réelle.

Donné le 5 Chaban, 1296.

No. 242.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 47. Political.)
Salonica, August 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I addressed yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to alleged disorders on the Turko-Bulgarian border.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 242.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, July 31, 1879.

Sir,

IT appears that the Prince of Bulgaria has sent a telegram to the Porte, complaining of the Ottoman troops and Bashi-Bazouks having recently made incursions into Bulgaria from the direction of Djuma.

Safvet Pasha, the Commander-in-chief in Macedonia, who has been in telegraphic communication with the Seraskier on the subject, states that the Ottoman troops have not encroached on Bulgarian territory, or committed any irregularities on the border; that there are no Bashi-Bazouks in the district of Djuma; and that bands of armed Bulgarians have fired upon the Turkish border outposts.

His Excellency has suggested to the Porte that a joint inquiry should be made into these alleged grievances by the Ottoman and Bulgarian border authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 243.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 48. Political.)
Salonica, August 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED this morning a telegram from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Longworth dated yesterday, and worded as follows :—

"Four more battalions have arrived in Thessaly from Constantinople. A French frigate has also arrived at Volo from Salonica."

I estimate the Ottoman force actually mustered in Thessaly at about 70 battalions of Infantry, 3 regiments of cavalry, and 6 batteries of artillery (Krupp guns).

The Mustaphiz contingents in Macedonia and the Vilayets of Cassova and Monastir are being disbanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 244.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 13.)

Scutari, August 3, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose Protocols Nos. 17, 18, and 19 of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

In Protocol No. 19 the frontier between the Antivari and Scutari districts was discussed, and it was proposed by the Russian Commissioner to consider the Mirkovic mentioned in Article XXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin as the district of that name and not the village so marked in the Austrian chart.

This proposition was supported by the Austrian Commissioner.

As the effect of this rendering of the Treaty would have been to advance the frontier several kilomètres nearer to Scutari and Dulcigno than shown in the Austrian chart, and also to give to Montenegro positions dominating very effectually the low country near the Bajana River, I deemed it necessary to oppose the proposition strongly, and to demand that the line should be taken in accordance with that shown on the Austrian Map.

As the Commission were evenly divided on this point, it was decided to depute the Russian Commissioner and myself to demarcate two alternative lines, the one following the limits of the district of Mirkovic, the other following as nearly as possible the line drawn on the Austrian Staff Map. These lines were to be demarcated on paper only, and to be adopted as the work of the Commission, the ultimate decision as to the choice of the line to rest with the respective Governments.

This demarcation has been carried out, but since then the Austrian Commissioner has received telegraphic instructions to reverse his former vote and to support my proposition.

As this will give my proposition a decided majority, I propose to take the first opportunity to call upon the Commission to pronounce decisively in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

Inclosure 1 in No. 244.

Protocole No. 17.—Séance du 25 Juillet, 1879.

Etaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. Danish Effendi, Consul-Général.

LA séance est ouverte à 6 heures du soir.

Le Président donne lecture d'une lettre en date du 24 de ce mois, par laquelle le Commissaire de Russie prie la Commission de revenir sur la décision qu'elle a prise dans la séance précédente relativement à la question de signes provisoires d'abornement.

Le Commissaire de Russie déclare en outre que conformément à de nouvelles instructions complémentaires qu'il vient de recevoir, il regarde un tracé, même provisoire, mais indiqué sur le terrain avec précision et en présence des autorités locales des deux parties intéressées, comme le seul et unique moyen de prévenir des difficultés qui ont arrêté jusqu'ici la Commission. En exposant ce point de vue de son Gouvernement, le Baron Kaulbars invite la Commission à revenir sur sa décision concernant l'emplacement de signaux sur le tracé provisoire, et à considérer ce tracé comme absolument inviolable jusqu'à la décision définitive des Grandes Puissances.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie demande à M. le Baron Kaulbars quelle serait la conséquence du refus par la Commission de revenir sur sa décision?

M. le Commissaire de Russie répond que son Gouvernement pourrait refuser par la suite son adhésion au tracé adopté, mais que, quant à lui, il n'en continuerait pas moins à prendre part aux travaux.

Le Président avant de poser à la Commission la question de savoir si elle veut revenir sur un vote acquit, consulte le Commissaire Britannique qui a proposé l'amendement relatif aux signes de bornage.

M. le Capitaine Sale pense que la Commission ne saurait revenir sur un Protocole qui a été approuvé et signé.

Le Baron Kaulbars insiste sur sa proposition et déclare que pour faire un travail utile, la Commission doit adopter les signes provisoires: un tracé sur la carte seule créerait des difficultés et entraverait, par la suite, des violations très-préjudiciables de la frontière. En outre, il est à craindre que, si le tracé n'est pas marqué sur le terrain même, il ne soit nécessaire d'envoyer l'année prochaine une autre Commission de délimitation en Albanie.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie désire faire une observation au sujet du premier vote de la dernière séance, concernant l'amendement de M. le Capitaine Sale. Le Protocole No. 16 relate qu'il a voté l'amendement de Mr. Sale; il est plus exact de formuler

que M. le Colonel Ottolenghi, après avoir fait toutes ses réserves, a accepté, sans voter le résultat du vote de la majorité.

A cette occasion, *M. le Commissaire de Russie* dit que son vote en faveur de la de la proposition modifiée doit, bien entendu, être interprété dans ce sens, que la Commission, ayant déjà accepté l'amendement, il ne se séparait pas de la majorité.

M. le Commissaire du Monténégro fait la même observation.

Le Président donne acte de ces déclarations à MM. les Commissaires d'Italie, de Russie, et du Monténégro.

Le Commissaire Britannique, répondant aux objections précédentes de M. le Commissaire de Russie, dit que le cahier de spécifications contiendra des détails suffisants à garantir l'identité du tracé.

Après une discussion technique, à laquelle prennent part les Commissaires d'Angleterre et de Russie, *le Président* demande à la Commission si elle veut revenir sur le second vote de la dernière séance.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne et de Turquie votent contre la motion Russe; les Commissaires d'Italie, du Monténégro et de Russie votent pour, en déclarant qu'ils ne peuvent que reitérer leur vœu d'adoption du hornage provisoire.

La motion de M. Kaulbars est repoussée à la majorité de 5 voix contre 3.

Le Président consulte la Commission, et particulièrement la Sous-Commission Topographique relativement à la direction qu'elle compte suivre pour ses travaux.

La Commission décide de se rendre le 26 Juillet sur le sommet de la Majoura pour y faire une reconnaissance.

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

Fait à Veli Gorana, le 25 Juillet, 1879.

(Signé)

Annexe au Protocole No. 17.

M. le Président,

Dans un second télégramme qui me parvient, les ordres d'adhérer à la proposition du Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi, Commissaire d'Italie, faite dans la douzième séance, me sont renouvelés. Je crois donc devoir maintenir le texte précis de cette proposition, et surtout celui du paragraphe 3, qui vient d'être sensiblement changé par la décision de la Commission prise dans sa dernière séance.

En conséquence, tout en maintenant la déclaration faite par moi dans la seizième séance et au moment de reprendre nos travaux, j'invite la Commission de décider dans un sens affirmatif l'emplacement de signaux sur les parties provisoires de la frontière; en cas contraire, je me crois obligé de faire mes réserves pour l'acceptation ultérieure par mon Gouvernement de tout tracé provisoire de la frontière, et accepté par la majorité, qui ne serait pas indiqué par des signes bien nets et visibles.

En vous priant, M. le Président, de bien vouloir communiquer cette lettre à la Commission dans la prochaine séance, je saisis cette occasion pour vous renouveler l'assurance des sentiments d'amitié et de respect, &c.

(Signé) Baron N. KAULBARS,
Commissaire de Russie.

A M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
Président de la Commission.

Inclosure 2 in No. 244.

Protocole No. 18.—*Séance du* 26 *Juillet*, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Vali Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Tahri Bey,
M. Danish Effendi, Consul-Général.

La séance est ouverte à 5 heures et demie.

Le Président ouvre la discussion sur les opérations faites ce matin par la Commission au sommet de la Majoura-Planina.

Le Commissaire Ottoman désire savoir nettement de la Commission par quel point elle se décidera, à la suite de cette excursion, à commencer ses travaux.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre propose de fixer comme point de départ de la mer, l'écueil de Vieux Kruci.

La Commission est unanime d'adopter ce point, et il est admis dès à présent que l'écueil est attribué au Monténégro.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre donne lecture de la note suivante :—

"On peut considérer comme autant de faits accomplis que le Bayrak, ou district de Merkovic, se compose de plusieurs villages; que la population du Bayrak est presqu'entièrement Slavo-Musulmane, et que les habitants du Bayrak ne font eux-mêmes mention d'aucun village ou district portant le nom de Merkovic, mais qu'ils donnent plutôt ce nom au Bayrak entier.

"Il peut y avoir des raisons pour que la démarcation de la frontière soit faite d'une manière telle que le district entier soit inclus dans le Monténégro, savoir :—

"1. De race les habitants sont Slaves et alliés au Monténégro.

"2. Les limites du district sont déterminées par des lignes naturelles qui fournissent une frontière bien nette du point de vue topographique entre la Turquie et le Monténégro.

"3. Le Traité de Berlin dit qu'Antivari et son littoral seront annexés au Monténégro, et il est clair que le Bayrak de Merkovic formait une partie du district d'Antivari.

"4. Il y aurait des objections à diviser un district, et à en donner une partie à la Turquie et l'autre partie au Monténégro.

"Ces différentes raisons paraissent assez concluantes pour inclure le Bayrak entier de Merkovic dans le Monténégro, mais cependant il me semble que l'intention du Traité de Berlin, quand il a été préparé, était évidemment de tracer approximativement une ligne droite entre les villages de Megured et Kulimed; parceque :

"1. Le Traité dit expressément que Kalimed doit rester à la Turquie, mais il s'exprimerait autrement si on avait eu l'intention de donner Merkovic au Monténégro, puisque Kalimed forme une partie de ce district.

"2. Il est vrai que la population de Merkovic est de la race Slave, mais elle est aussi intimement alliée à la Turquie par la religion.

"3. Le Traité porte l'expression 'Antivari et son littoral.' Donc, si en parlant d'Antivari, on avait voulu dire le district entier d'Antivari, il n'aurait pas été nécessaire de se servir de l'expression 'et son littoral,' puisque l'expression 'le district d'Antivari' aurait fait comprendre ce qu'on voulait dire d'une façon beaucoup plus claire et précise.

"4. Le Congrès de Berlin se servait de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien comme la meilleure information locale qu'on pouvait trouver, et sur cette carte Merkovic est clairement indiqué comme village et non pas comme district du Bayrak. Il est évident, si on examine la copie certifiée de la carte, qu'on n'a pris le village de Merkovic que comme un point connu auquel on pourrait se rapporter pour la direction de la ligne-frontière.

"5. La carte navale Autrichienne, qui est bien et exactement faite, indique Merkovic absolument comme village, et les témoignages qu'on a recueillis ce matin prouvent bien que si un étranger demandait qu'on lui montre le village de Merkovic, on lui indiquerait le village ainsi nommé sur la Carte Autrichienne.

"6. Si on attribuait au Monténégro le district entier de Merkovic, le résultat serait de donner à cette Principauté une position sur la crête du Mugura qui domine complétement la plaine qui se trouve près de la Boyana et de Duleigno; et cette attribution serait une violation directe de ce principe que la Commission a déjà posé, c'est-à-dire, que la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien doit être considérée comme complémentaire et explicative du Traité de Berlin.

"L'objection contre la division du Barak est inadmissible, parce que le Traité a établi très-clairement et nettement que le Bayrak serait ainsi divisé en laissant Kalimed à la Turquie, et le soi-disant Merkovic au Monténégro, et la Commission excéderait complétement ses pouvoirs en s'écartant de la ligne ainsi déterminée pour éviter la division d'une commune ou pour trouver une ligne-frontière plus distincte.

"Donc, en résumé, tout en admettant les raisons qui aboutissent à la conclusion contraire, je ne puis que croire que l'intention du Traité est bien exprimée dans la copie certifiée de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, et j'ajouterai que l'exactitude de l'indication de la frontière, telle qu'elle a été faite à Berlin à l'époque du Congrès, ne faisait pas question dans le cas présent."

Le Président lit la déclaration ainsi conçue du Commissaire du Monténégro.

"Sur la base de l'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin qui dit explicitement 'en laissant Merkojevitch au Monténégro,' ce qui est plus clairement encore précisé par l'Article XXIX de la manière suivante : 'Antivari et son littoral seront annexés au Monténégro, tandis que les contrées situées au sud du territoire d'Antivari, y compris Duleigno, seront restituées à la Turquie.' De plus, les dépositions faites par les Chefs des Merkojevitch's, et que la Commission a aujourd'hui, 26 courant, recueillis sur les lieux mêmes, prouvent d'une manière indubitable que les Merkojevitch's ont toujours fait partie du territoire d'Antivari; en conséquence de quoi nous proposons à la Commission de tracer la frontière du Monténégro là où se trouvent actuellement les limites de la tribu Merkovitchi."

Le Colonel Kaulbars lit ensuite à la Commission ce document qu'il a rédigé : "J'ai déjà fait observer dans une de nos premières séances que le texte du Traité de Berlin ne serait pas toujours suffisant pour prévenir et expliquer les malentendus en présence desquels nous pourrons nous trouver sur le terrain. En abordant la question Kalimed et Megured, qu'on ne saurait détacher de celle des Merkovitch's, la Commission se trouve en face d'une situation qui ne saurait être expliquée, ni par le texte du Traité, ni par la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien qui lui est annexée. Le Traité dit : 'd'où (c'est-à-dire la frontière) ayant atteint les sommets de la crête, elle suit la ligne de partage des eaux entre Megured et Kalimed.'

"Or, les deux villages en question, se trouvant tous les deux dans la vallée du ruisseau 'le Megured,' et sur la rive gauche de ce dernier, il est clair que l'existence d'une ligne de partage des eaux entre les deux villages n'est pas possible.

"Il se présente donc ici une difficulté que la Commission ne saurait résoudre qu'en interprétant l'esprit général du Traité, lequel, tout en tenant compte des conditions topographiques et stratégiques du terrain, n'oublie pas de prendre en considération les limites des tribus et des communautés. La phrase suivante du dit Traité : 'laissant

Merkovitch au Monténégro et rejoignant la mer à Vieux Kruci,' confirme en effet cette observation.

"Les Merkovitch's forment, comme le sait la Commission, non pas un village, mais une communauté, dont font partie les localités Megured et Kalimed (Kaliman), tout aussi bien que les villages suivants: Velje-Sela, Kunia, Zeskowatz, Velje-Gorana, Mala-Gorana, Gadonici, Dobernici, Ravan, Dobra-Wada, et Mikulichi.

"L'intention du Traité me semble donc tout-à-fait évidente quand il dit, 'laissant Merkovitch au Monténégro;' et il n'est pas douteux qu'il vise ainsi ni un village mais la communauté tout entière.

"L'enquête faite par la Commission ce matin sur la crête de la Majoura-Planina a démontré entre autres que les Merkovitch's sont d'origine Slave, et parlent la même langue Serbe que les Monténégrins.

"De plus, comme la Commission a pu le voir, les limites de cette tribu suivent une ligne stratégique, indispensable pour la défense du littoral, ainsi que tout le territoire d'Antivari nouvellement annexé au Monténégro, principe très-grave pour la petite Principauté, et dont le Traité de Berlin tient toujours compte. En abordant les différentes questions de la frontière Monténégrine, la Commission devrait, à mon avis, toujours prendre en considération trois documents. Deux de ces documents sont visibles, ce sont: le texte du Traité et la Carte qui lui est adjointe; le troisième est plutôt spirituel, ce qui ne l'empêche pas d'avoir la même valeur que les deux autres, c'est l'esprit général qui anime le Traité, et d'où, à son tour, la Commission devrait s'animer.

"Ces différentes raisons nous prouvent que la solution la plus simple et en même temps la seule exacte de cette question serait, de tracer la nouvelle frontière du Monténégro là où actuellement se trouvent les limites de la communauté des Merkovitch's, tout en tenant compte en même temps des conditions topographiques sus-mentionnées.

"En conséquence, la frontière devrait suivre la crête principale jusqu'au point où elle atteint la limite des Merkovitch's, et à partir de là, suivre cette dernière jusqu'à la mer ainsi qu'il suit: Passant par les Montagnes Maured (Lipowniak Bratowina), Rasadac, Kruta, et Kokat, elle descendrait dans la vallée du ruisseau 'le Megured Potack,' laissant aux Merkovitch's le pont 'Karmenicksmost' qui leur appartient. Puis, décrivant une légère courbe, elle atteindrait la hauteur Kodra, laissant le village Wukici aux Anomoles (c'est-à-dire à la Turquie). De Kodra elle devrait suivre, en se dirigeant sur le sud-est, la ligne de ces hauteurs jusqu'au ravin Berdela (Bederla, Berdelica), et en longeant ce dernier elle monterait sur la crête de la Majoura-Planina, qu'elle suivrait jusqu'à la mer, pour aboutir au Skolio-Kruci."

Le Président ayant demandé aux parties intéressées de développer les observations qu'elles pourraient avoir à faire à la suite des déclarations précédentes,

Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman prend la parole en ces termes: "La délégation Ottomane n'admet pas l'existence d'un district appelé Mirkovic. Suivant les convenances administratives du moment, Mirkovic et les villages Kunia, Dobrovoda, Pescritsa, Torana, et autres ont dépendu alternativement des Caïmacamats d'Antivari et de Dulcigno. D'un autre côté, le Vilayet de Scutari n'a pas reconnu à ces divers Bayraks la qualité de tribu spéciale, et comme preuve à l'appui, il ne s'agit que de faire connaître à la Commission qu'il part une circonstance unique, lors de la campagne du Serdar Omer Pacha, lorsqu'il s'est agi de grouper les hommes d'armes de ces localités autour d'un Chef responsable, jamais la Porte n'a nommé pour Mirkovic et les villages environnants un Beuliks-Pachi, comme cela se pratique en Albanie pour les fractions de population qui sont groupées par tribus permanentes avec des dénominations reconnues. La délégation Ottomane reconnaît la nécessité de fournir ces éclaircissements. Toutefois la base principale de ses arguments pour l'adoption d'une ligne de démarcation allant de Vieux Kruci à la mer, et de cette localité directement vers la ligne entre Megured et Kalimed, en passant par Mirkovitch, repose sur le texte du Traité, sur les indications de la carte maritime d'Autriche-Hongrie, et sur la Convention même de Vir-Bazar, postérieure au Traité de Berlin, et qui a été librement intervenue entre la Turquie et le Monténégro."

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie observe que le district administratif d'Antivari comprenait les communautés dont faisait partie celle de Merkovitch; or, le Congrès, en prenant soin de dire: "Antivari et son littoral," et en ajoutant plus bas, Article 29: "les contrées situées au sud de ce territoire," a eu évidemment en vue de donner au Monténégro le territoire tout entier d'Antivari, sauf les restrictions y énoncées. M. Lippich approuve en conséquence l'opinion du Baron Kaulbars, tout en se réservant, quant au présent, en ce qui concerne le point de Kalimed.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre fait remarquer que l'Article XXIX du Traité est surtout un Article relatif aux questions maritimes, et à la frontière Austro-Monténégrine; ainsi, en employant cette expression "Antivari et son littoral," on a voulu viser la question de la côte et non pas celle du territoire d'Antivari.

M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne dit que le Congrès ne pouvait pas suivre toutes les limites de la communauté des Merkovitch's sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, mais que selon son opinion, il avait l'intention d'attribuer la partie entière au Monténégro.

Le Commissaire Monténégrin observe que les limites de la communauté ne pourraient pas facilement être déterminées dans la carte annexée au Traité de Berlin.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie rappelle que parmi les diverses déclarations recueillies ce matin sur la Majoura-Planina, un homme du pays a dit si un voyageur arrivait et demandait Merkovitch, on le conduirait à Valsi-Salo, parce que, a-t-il ajouté, c'est le plus ancien village, le chef-lieu de la communauté, et la résidence du Bayraktar. D'autre côté, le Congrès a reconnu l'utilité de diviser le moins possible des groupes homogènes de population; or, si dans le cas présent nous ne tenons pas compte de ce principe, nous créerons ainsi un précédent pour nos décisions à venir, par exemple quand il s'agira de Hoti, Gruda, et Klementi.

Danish Effendi déclare que les Délégués Ottomans ne partagent pas cette inquiétude parce que le texte du Traité de Berlin est formel à l'égard de ces tribus.

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre fait observer que l'Article XXVIII distingue nettement entre les villages et les tribus toutes les fois qu'il en est question, notamment dans le deuxième alinéa, ou l'expression "la tribus, les tribus," est répété à plusieurs reprises; d'un autre côté, en lisant le début de l'Article XXIX avec attention, on ne peut douter que ces mots "les contrées situées au sud de ce territoire," d'après la délimitation ci-dessus déterminée, ne s'appliquent à l'Article précédent.

Le Commissaire de France partage dans leur ensemble les idées parfaitement exprimées par M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne. Il y a une tribu de Merkovich, et également un village appelé Merkovich, sur la Carte Maritime Autrichienne, comme sur la carte qui a servi au tracé du Traité de Berlin. Lequel, du village ou de la tribu, l'Article XXVIII du dit Traité laisse-t-il au Monténégro? Là est le point douteux. Ce doute s'impose d'autant plus sérieusement à l'esprit que quelques lignes plus haut l'Article emploie le mot "tribus" en parlant des territoires des Hoti, Klementi, et Gruli, laissés à l'Albanie. Il y a donc matière sérieuse à un doute. Or, la Commission a décidé dans sa deuxième séance, que les Articles du Traité auraient pour complément le tracé de la Carte Autrichienne, et ce tracé ne tient aucun compte des limites de la tribu ou communauté de Merkovich. M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi se croit obligé de se conformer au principe posé dans la seconde séance, et ne se croirait pas autorisé à modifier le tracé de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, surtout dans des proportions aussi sensibles que le demandent MM. les Commissaires du Monténégro et de Russie.

Le Commissaire d'Italie déclare que devant la difficulté de trancher une question aussi grave, en présence de la nécessité de faire les deux tracés en question, et enfin, en conséquence de la décision prise par la majorité de ne pas marquer avec des lignes les frontières provisoires, même si le tracé est accepté par la majorité, il lui paraît désirable de ne pas procéder au vote sur la question discutée.

Il propose:—"La Commission procédera à partir de Vieux Kruci, aux deux tracés contradictoires, et dont il vient d'être question; ces trois seront soumis au jugement des Puissances."

Le Président met aux voix cette proposition, qui est adopté à l'unanimité.

Sur les représentations de MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, *M. le Capitaine Sale* propose de faire connaître aux deux parties intéressées que la Commission, dans sa séance de ce jour, adopte à l'unanimité l'écueil de Vieux Kruci comme point de départ du tracé sur la Mer Adriatique, et que, par conséquent, le village de Kruci reste dans le territoire Ottoman.

Cette proposition est acceptée à l'unanimité.

La Commission décide de se réunir demain à 10 heures.

La séance est levée à 7 heures et demie.

Fait à Veli Gorana, le 26 Juillet, 1879.

(Signé)

Inclosure 3 in No. 244.

Protocole No. 19.—*Séance du* 27 *Juillet*, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
M. le Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pasha,
M. le Consul-Général Danish Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 10 heures.

Le Président expose qu'après le vote d'hier sur les tracés contradictoires de la frontière à partir de Vieux Kruçi, il s'agit actuellement de désigner ceux des membres de la Commission qu'elle déléguera avec ses instructions pour l'établissement de ces tracés.

Le Commissaire de Russie, se rapportant à sa déclaration d'hier, donne lecture du tracé qu'il propose :—"La frontière partirait de Sioglio Vieux Kruçi ; elle suivrait la crête de la Majoura-Planina dans toute sa longueur, puis elle tournerait pour entrer dans le ravin de Berdela, et le suivrait jusqu'à sa sortie. Elle se dirigerait ensuite le long des hauteurs de Kodra à peu près jusqu'à la hauteur du village Veli Gorana ; puis en contournant le village Vukici, qui resterait à la Turquie, cette ligne traverserait le Megured Sulak, laissant le pont Kaminitski-most aux Merkovitch's. De là elle passerait par les Montagnes Kokat et Krüta Rasadac, et monterait par le ravin Narandgel sur le sommet du Mraured (Liponik Cratovitza) pour aboutir à la crête principale, là où se trouvent les limites des Merkovitch's."

Le Commissaire d'Angleterre indique à son tour le tracé qu'il a compté suivre :—

"Il suivra autant que possible le tracé de la Carte de l'État-Major Autrichien ; partant de l'écueil de Vieux Kruçi, il passera par la ligne la plus courte de l'écueil à la Vnue Gorani ; de là il prend un point fixé sur la Carte (maritime) Autrichienne sous le No. 750 près de Carastranich, laissé à la Turquie : de ce point il se dirige sur Kurçia en longeant les deux mosquées, laissées au Monténégro, ainsi que le village de Kunia. De la mosquée, dans la direction de Leskova, en passant d'abord par une colline, marquée sur la Carte Autrichienne Maritime au nord-est de Kunia ; à partir de cette colline dans la direction du point marqué 1497 sur la dite carte maritime, en s'arrêtant au thalweg du Megured, que la ligne suivra jusqu'au premier contrefort du Mraured au nord du village Kalimun (Kalimed). De là, la ligne suivra le contrefort jusqu'au sommet du Mraured, 3717, où elle s'arrêtera.

Le Président demande si la Commission donne au Capitaine Sale et au Colonel Kaulbars les instructions de faire chacun un tracé conforme au double exposé qui précède, et leur confère le mandat nécessaire à cette mission.

Sur l'assentiment de la Commission, le Président ajoute qu'il est bien entendu que ces deux tracés ayant été discutés et acceptés par la Commission, seront considérés par elle comme son propre travail, sans s'en tenir à des différences de détails,

et qu'il y aura lieu seulement de lui soumettre le travail fait sans qu'il soit constaté par elle que les Délégués s'en sont tenus aux instructions reçues.

Le Baron Kaulbars observe qu'en effet il peut y avoir lieu à faire sur le terrain quelques modifications de détail à son tracé.

Le Capitaine Sale est d'avis que le travail dont il est chargé devrait être fait par la Commission même ; il accepte néanmoins très-volontiers cette délégation.

Le Président exprime l'opinion que, puisqu'il il s'agit d'un tracé topographique dont les instructions ont été approuvées à l'avance par la Commission, elle est parfaitement en droit de déléguer ce travail particulièrement à ceux de ses membres que leurs capacités techniques recommendent pour le faire.

Le Président prie les Commissaires des parties intéressées de vouloir bien donner l'assurance que tout aide possible sera prêté aux Délégués de la Commission et que surtout aucun obstacle ne sera apporté à leur travail.

Le Baron Kaulbars prie son Excellence Riza Pacha de vouloir bien le faire accompagner par un officier et quelques soldats.

Le Capitaine Sale fait la demande d'être accompagné par un officier Monténégrin, qui puisse lui fournir toutes les indications nécessaires.

La séance est levée à midi.

Fait à Veli Gorana, le 27 Juillet, 1879.

(Signé.)

No. 245.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 44.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose Protocols from 28 to 42 of the proceedings of the Commission for the Delimitation of the Southern and South-Western Frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

I have underlined, for the information of your Lordship, the statements made at different times by the Russian Delegate, Colonel Philippoff, and which bear reference to the supply of maps through which the zone of frontier passes, or to such parts where it was considered necessary for surveys to be made.

A meeting was held on the 31st ultimo. At the urgent and very special desire of the Commission, Colonel Philippoff telegraphed to the Chief of the Topographical Section at St. Petersburg, and requested that the sheets required to complete the series might be despatched at once. Apparently this was the first communication made with the authorities at St. Petersburg on the subject.

A meeting of the Commission was held at Pera on the 5th instant. The Russian Delegate did not attend, excusing himself on the plea of sudden illness.

A reply to the above telegram was laid before the Commission, which directed Colonel Philippoff to apply to the Chief of the Topographical Section at Rustchuk, in whose possession are copies of all the maps.

Colonel Philippoff has applied by telegraph, but has not yet received an answer.

The next meeting of the Commission has been fixed for the 12th August. At the same time Colonel Philippoff has been requested, should he hear from Rustchuk, to at once communicate with the President of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

Inclosure 1 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 28.—Séance tenue le 21 Avril, 1879, à Constantinople, à la Caserne du Taxim.

Président, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel CHAKIR BEY.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.

M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne pense qu'il y a lieu de maintenir, pour la présidence, le principe de l'alternat, mais qu'il serait avantageux, au point de vue de la bonne exécution des travaux, de fixer pour la durée des pouvoirs du Président, un laps de temps plus considérable que celui qui a été admis l'année dernière.

La Commission se range à cette manière de voir; elle décide à l'unanimité que la durée de la présidence sera portée de huit à quinze jours.

Quelques membres émettent l'avis qu'il convient d'opérer la délimitation de l'est à l'ouest, en commençant à la Mer Noire. En adoptant cette marche, la Commission arrivera dans le Rhodope vers la fin du mois de Juin, c'est-à-dire, au moment où la saison sera tout-à-fait favorable à l'exécution des travaux dans cette région.

Cette proposition est adoptée à l'unanimité.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie pense que la Commission ne peut pas se mettre en route avant d'être fixée sur la question de savoir si elle a besoin d'une escorte, et dans l'affirmative, par quelle Puissance sera fournie la dite escorte. Il exprime le désir d'entendre à ce sujet les communications de ses collègues de Russie et de Turquie.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie déclare que son Gouvernement est d'avis qu'en principe le soin de fournir l'escorte appartient à la Puissance qui occupe militairement les territoires de la Roumélie Orientale, que la Commission devra traverser.

M. le Commissaire de Russie désire savoir si la Commission pense qu'elle a besoin d'une escorte, et, dans l'affirmative, si elle se croit autorisée à demander elle-même à l'une ou l'autre Puissance les troupes nécessaires.

M. le Commissaire de France répond que la Commission n'a pas qualité, suivant lui, pour prendre l'initiative sur cette question, qui ne peut être résolue que par une entente entre les deux Puissances intéressées. Il rappelle que M. le Commissaire de Turquie vient de faire une déclaration officielle au nom de son Gouvernement, et il serait heureux de voir son collègue de Russie entrer dans la même voie.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie se rallie à l'opinion exprimée par son collègue de France. L'entente entre les deux Puissances intéressées ne paraissant pas établie, il est d'avis qu'il y a lieu de saisir de la question les Ambassadeurs.

La Commission adopte à l'unanimité cette manière de voir.

M. le Commissaire de Russie annonce qu'il sera très-prochainement en mesure de fournir à la Commission les levers nécessaires pour l'étude de la frontière entre la Toundja et la Mer Noire. Les reproductions de ces levers sont en cours d'exécution, et lui seront adressées dans quelques jours. Il ajoute que le lever géodésique de la chaîne du Rhodope va être entrepris incessamment.

La Commission fixe son départ pour Bourgas au Lundi, 5 Mai, et décide qu'elle tiendra séance Lundi prochain, 28 du courant.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 29.—Séance tenue le 28 Avril, 1879, à Constantinople, à la Caserne du Taxim.

Président M. le Lieutenant-Colonel CHAKIR BEY.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Boy, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 28 est lu et adopté.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey présente à la Commission ses deux Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey et M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah.

M. le Commissaire de Russie annonce que son Ambassadeur a prié M. le Général Commandant les troupes d'occupation en Roumélie de diriger sur Bourgas, où elle devra être rendue le 6 Mai, une escorte pour être mise à la disposition de la Commission. Cette escorte comprendra un escadron de l'armée régulière Russe et un sotnia de milice Bulgare formée d'une centaine d'hommes. Celle-ci aura pour mission spéciale de maintenir l'ordre parmi les habitants des villages-frontières et d'assurer à la Commission la possibilité d'opérer sur le terrain sans être en butte aux obsessions de la populace.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie est prêt à accepter une escorte Russe suivant la déclaration de principe qu'il a faite dans la séance précédente, mais il n'est pas autorisé à accepter une escorte mixte, composée en partie de troupes Russes et en partie de troupes de la milice Bulgare. Il ajoute, en ce qui concerne ces dernières, que son Gouvernement ne reconnaît en Roumélie d'autre milice que celle dont la Commission Administrative de Philippopoli a élaboré l'organisation.

M. le Commissaire de Russie répond que le détachement de milice Bulgare qui accompagnera la Commission ne doit pas être considéré comme faisant partie de l'escorte, laquelle sera en réalité constituée par l'escadron de cavalerie de l'armée Russe, mais comme devant jouer le rôle d'un témoin régulier, assistant aux opérations de la délimitation et en faisant connaître les résultats aux populations. Ce détachement aura d'ailleurs une composition essentiellement variable, et sera formé par des

miliciens appartenant aux localités traversées. Pour ces divers motifs on ne saurait lui attribuer le caractère d'une escorte.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie persiste dans sa déclaration, et se voit dans la nécessité d'en référer à son Gouvernement.

MM. les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Allemagne déclarent se rallier d'avance à toute combinaison propre à donner à la Commission les moyens d'exécuter ses travaux.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne pense que le Gouvernement de la Porte doit faire connaître s'il autorise l'escorte à pénétrer en territoire Ottoman, car il est à prévoir que la Commission voyagera tantôt en territoire Roumélliote, tantôt en territoire Ottoman.

M. le Commissaire de France croit être l'interprète de ses collègues en priant M. le Colonel Chakir Bey de vouloir bien faire auprès de son Gouvernement les démarches nécessaires en vue d'arriver le plus promptement possible à une solution.

Sur la demande qui lui en est faite par quelques-uns de ses collègues, *M. le Colonel Philippoff* fait connaître qu'il compte recevoir vers la fin de la semaine, mais dans pouvoir préciser le jour, les cartes topographiques relatives à la zone-frontière.

Plusieurs membres de la Commission craignent que ces documents n'arrivent à Constantinople qu'après le 5 Mai, qui est le jour fixé pour le départ de la Commission. Ils pensent qu'il serait préférable de les faire expédier à Bourgas, où la Commission serait certaine de les avoir en temps utile, et prient M. le Colonel Philippoff de vouloir bien télégraphier dans ce sens à M. le Directeur du service topographique.

M. le Colonel Philippoff s'empresse de déclarer qu'il va immédiatement faire droit à cette demande.

(Signé) KRAHMER,
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 3 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 30.—*Séance tenue le 2 Mai, 1879, à Constantinople, à la Caserne du Taxim.*

Président, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel CHAKIR BEY.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Boy, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 29 est lu et adopté.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie déclare que des explications ayant été échangées

entre son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Russie, Prince Labanoff, et son Excellence Carathéodory Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, il n'a plus d'objection à faire contre les dispositions projetées par l'autorité Russe en vue d'assurer une escorte à la Commission. Il reste entendu, conformément à la déclaration qu'il a faite dans la séance du 21 Avril, que l'escorte sera fournie par l'armée Russe dans les territoires Roumélliotes faisant partie de la zone d'occupation, et par l'armée Turque en dehors de ces territoires.

M. le Commissaire de Russie annonce que M. le Général Commandant le corps d'occupation de Roumélie n'a pas encore fait connaître s'il est en mesure de satisfaire à la demande qui lui a été adressée par son Excellence le Prince Labanoff au sujet de l'envoi à Bourgas des troupes qui doivent escorter la Commission.

M. le Commissaire de France est d'avis que la Commission ne peut pas se mettre en route avant d'avoir acquis la certitude de trouver une escorte Russe à son arrivée à Bourgas. Il propose qu'elle ajourne son départ jusqu'à ce qu'une communication lui ait été faite officiellement à ce sujet par M. le Commissaire de Russie.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie est d'un avis opposé; il fait observer que la Commission peut faire à Bourgas auprès de l'autorité militaire Russe les démarches nécessaires pour obtenir une escorte, et il propose de partir Lundi prochain conformément à la décision qui a été prise dans la séance du 21 Avril.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie déclare s'associer à l'opinion exprimée par son collègue d'Italie.

M. le Commissaire de Russie répond que l'autorité militaire compétente pour donner des ordres relativement à l'escorte se trouve à Philippopoli et non pas à Bourgas. Il ajoute qu'il n'a pas encore reçu de réponse au télégramme qu'il a adressé, sur la demande de ses collègues, à M. le Directeur du service topographique, et qu'il ne sait pas encore à quelle date les cartes pourront être mises à la disposition de la Commission. Pour ces motifs, le départ proposé pour Lundi prochain lui semble prématuré.

Sur la déclaration faite par leur collègue de Russie, MM. les Commissaires d'Italie et d'Autriche-Hongrie retirent leur observation. La proposition de M. le Commissaire de France mise aux voix est adoptée à l'unanimité.

La prochaine séance est fixée au Jeudi, 8 Mai.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 4 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 31.—Séance tenue le 18 Mai, 1879, à Constantinople, à la Caserne du Tzaim.

Président, M. le Capitaine KRAHMER.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seifoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Omik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 30 est lu et adopté.

M. le Colonel Philippoff présente à la Commission M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau, qui est désigné pour lui être adjoint. *M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey* présente Omik Effendi, qui est appelé à remplir les fonctions de Secrétaire-Adjoint.

M. le Commissaire de Russie annonce que l'escadron de cavalerie désigné pour servir d'escorte a été dirigé sur Bourgas, où il doit être en ce moment. Il ajoute que les cartes seront rendues le 10 Mai dans cette localité, et que dans ces conditions il ne croit pas nécessaire de les faire expédier à Constantinople, car rien ne s'oppose à ce que la Commission se mette en route Lundi prochain, 12 Mai.

A la suite de cette déclaration la Commission fixe le départ pour Bourgas au Lundi, 12 Mai.

M. le Président pense qu'il est opportun de passer en revue les divers Protocoles, où se trouvent contenues les décisions de principe qui ont été prises l'année dernière pendant le cours des opérations. Il insiste sur ce fait que la Commission a été souvent conduite, dans l'application, à s'écarter plus ou moins de quelques-unes d'entre elles; et il pense qu'il serait avantageux de mettre à profit l'expérience acquise pour poser quelques règles générales sur lesquelles la Commission pût baser le travail de cette année.

Il rappelle tout d'abord que la Commission dans sa première séance a décidé de prendre ses résolutions à la majorité des voix; il pense qu'il y a lieu de maintenir ce principe tel qu'il est formulé au Protocole No. 1. La Commission se range à cet avis.

M. le Président croit devoir ensuite appeler tout particulièrement l'attention de ses collègues sur la proposition qui a été faite par M. le Commissaire d'Italie dans la même séance au sujet de la méthode à suivre dans les opérations sur le terrain, et sur celle qui a été faite par M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne dans la huitième séance au sujet de l'adoption de lignes naturelles dans la détermination de la frontière. En ce qui concerne la première, il pense qu'il convient d'en modifier les termes de façon à faire ressortir la nécessité, aujourd'hui reconnue, de reporter sur une carte topographique le tracé général de la frontière, ou d'exécuter un lever dans le cas où cette carte n'existerait pas.

Quant à la deuxième, il pense qu'il serait avantageux de l'appliquer dans le sens le plus large, toutes les fois qu'on pourra le faire sans s'écarter du Traité de Berlin.

M. le Commissaire de France fait observer que la Commission disposera cette année pour la partie de la frontière comprise entre la Toundja et la Mer Noire de plans au $\frac{1}{42000}$, reproductions des levers effectués par le service topographique Russe. Il pense qu'il serait utile de poser les bases d'une méthode générale qui permît à la Commission d'utiliser ces documents de façon à en tirer le meilleur parti possible. Dans ce but, il propose d'adopter les règles suivantes :—

Le travail de délimitation comprendra d'une manière générale quatre opérations distinctes :—

1. Etude préliminaire de la frontière sur le plan au $\frac{1}{42000}$;
2. Reconnaissance de la frontière sur le terrain;
3. Discussion et adoption définitive du tracé sur le plan;
4. Report de ce tracé sur le terrain au moyen de signes visibles dans les cas spécifiés plus loin.

Lorsque la frontière sera formée par une ligne naturelle, telle qu'une crête de montagne, un thalweg, &c., il sera en général inutile de faire aucune opération topographique. En effet, la Commission a déjà admis en principe que dans ce cas, c'est la ligne courbe, tracée suivant la définition géométrique sur la surface du terrain, qui détermine la frontière, sauf les rectifications jugées nécessaires dans les parties où cette ligne présenterait des rebroussements trop brusques, ou couperait par le milieu des propriétés d'une grande valeur. Dans ces conditions et sauf les exceptions qu'on vient de signaler, la frontière pourra en général être tracée sur le plan au $\frac{1}{42000}$ avec une approximation suffisante, sans qu'il soit nécessaire de faire aucune opération topographique.

Lorsque la frontière ne suivra pas de lignes naturelles, elle sera déterminée au moyen d'une ligne polygonale reliant des points plus ou moins espacés que la Commission choisira autant que possible parmi les accidents naturels du terrain, et, suivant une principe déjà admis, sur les principales routes pénétrantes. On reportera ces points sur le plan au $\frac{1}{42000}$ par des opérations topographiques très-simples, et on les repérera toutes les fois que la chose sera possible par rapport aux objets remarquables des environs.

Dans le premier des cas que l'on vient d'examiner, on ne laissera en général aucun signe sur le terrain; car il est toujours possible de retrouver sur une surface une ligne définie géométriquement. La Commission pourra toutefois se départir de cette règle lorsque la frontière, pour les raisons signalées plus haut, s'écartera de la ligne géométrique.

Dans le deuxième cas, on pourra marquer au moyen de signes quelconques les points qui ne sont pas déterminés par des accidents naturels. Ces signes permettront aux parties intéressées de retrouver ces points, lorsqu'elles procéderont au bornage de la frontière.

Le plan au $\frac{1}{420000}$ sur lequel on aura reporté le tracé définitif ainsi que les repérements obtenus, sera mis à l'appui de l'acte diplomatique réglant la frontière.

Les principes qui viennent d'être exposés, dit en terminant M. le Commissaire de France, ne sauraient évidemment constituer une règle absolue. La Commission sera toujours libre de les modifier plus ou moins suivant les circonstances et en profitant de l'expérience acquise au cours des travaux.

M. le Commissaire de Russie est d'avis qu'il faut jalonner la ligne sur tout son développement, de façon à faire connaître, approximativement, aux autorités locales les limites de la frontière; ce n'est que dans le cas où la présence de la Commission sur le terrain amènerait du désordre parmi les populations, que l'on pourrait se contenter de tracer la frontière sur la carte. Il pense que la proposition de M. le Commissaire de France demande réflexion et il propose l'ajournement du vote.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie répond que le travail de délimitation doit être soumis à l'approbation des Puissances, et qu'il y aurait de graves inconvénients à en faire connaître prématurément les résultats. Il ajoute que la proposition de M. le Commissaire de France ne soulève aucune question de principe nouvelle et qu'elle ne fait que consacrer des dispositions déjà admises par la Commission. Pour ces motifs, il propose de passer immédiatement au vote.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne croit qu'il sera nécessaire de vérifier l'exactitude des documents remis à la Commission. Il propose de s'en tenir, pour le moment, aux considérations générales développées par M. le Président.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie fait observer que la proposition de M. le Commissaire de

France a été formulée dans des termes généraux et sous des réserves qui sont de nature à lever les scrupules de ses collègues. Il insiste pour que l'accord s'établisse.

M. le Président met alors aux voix cette proposition, qui est adoptée à l'unanimité.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 5 in No. 245.

Protocole No 32.—*Séance du* 10 *Mai*, 1879.

Président, M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 31 est lu et adopté.

M. le Colonel Philippoff annonce à la Commission que, suivant un télégramme qu'il a reçu de M. le Directeur du Service Topographique, les reproductions photographiques des levers de la zone-frontière ne seront prêtes que le 22 Mai. Ce retard tout-à-fait imprévu est causé par la mort de l'officier topographe qui était chargé de surveiller l'exécution de ce travail.

A la suite de cette déclaration la Commission décide par 6 voix contre 1 qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'ajourner le départ pour Bourgas, lequel reste fixé au Lundi, 12 Mai, conformément à la décision prise dans la séance du 8 Mai. La voix de la minorité est celle de M. le Colonel Philippoff, qui eût été d'avis de partir le 19 Mai par le bateau suivant, attendu que la Commission, suivant lui, ne gagnera rien à partir le 12, faute de pouvoir employer d'une manière utile le court espace de temps réclamé pour l'achèvement des cartes topographiques.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie dit qu'il semble résulter de la communication de M. le Colonel Philippoff, que le travail de reproduction des cartes est loin d'être aussi avancé qu'on le supposait ; il craint que ces documents ne se fassent attendre longtemps encore.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne est d'avis de se mettre immédiatement à l'œuvre avec ou sans cartes ; celles-ci peuvent rendre des services ; mais elle ne sont pas indispensables, et un lever peut y suppléer ; d'ailleurs elles n'existent que pour une

partie limitée de la frontière. M. le Commissaire Anglais ajoute que dans son opinion un lever sera nécessaire, et il déclare qu'il est prêt à le faire exécuter par M. de Wolski et à y coopérer lui-même au besoin. Il a l'espoir que MM. les Adjoints Ottomans voudront bien prêter leurs concours pour cette opération.

La Commission prend acte de la déclaration de M. le Major Gordon.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie fait observer que la frontière près de la Mer Noire est formée par des lignes naturelles, et que la reconnaissance en est facile, même sans le secours des cartes. La Commission peut donc s'attacher tout d'abord à cette reconnaissance. Si les cartes ne lui parviennent pas en temps utile, elle profitera de l'offre de M. le Major Gordon.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 6 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 33.—*Séance tenue le* 14 *Mai*, 1879, *à Bourgas.*

Président, M. le Capitaine KRAHMER.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 32 est lu et adopté.

M. le Colonel Philippoff met sous les yeux de ses collègues un calque du plan au $\frac{1}{126000}$ de la partie de la zone-frontière voisine de la Mer Noire qui lui a été expédié en hâte par M. le Directeur du Service Topographique. La Commission pourra se servir de ce document jusqu'à ce qu'elle ait entre les mains les reproductions photographiques qui sont en voie d'achèvement.

M. le Président est d'avis de confier à une Sous-Commission composée d'adjoints le soin de faire l'étude préliminaire de la frontière sur le plan. Le tracé serait exécuté au crayon, et examiné en séance par les membres de la Commission. Comme on ne dispose pour le moment que d'un seul calque, cette marche paraît la seule praticable. Après que la Commission aura reconnu sur place et arrêté définitivement le tracé, la même Sous-Commission, assistée de M. l'Officier Topographe Russe, pourrait être chargée de le reporter sur le plan.

La Commission adopte cette proposition à l'unanimité. La composition de la Sous-Commission est fixée ainsi qu'il suit :—

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 7 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 34.—Séance tenue le 18 Mai, 1879, au Camp, près Kara-Toprak.

Président, M. le Capitaine KRAHMER.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seifoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

Le Protocole No. 33 est lu et adopté.

M. le Président donne lecture du dernier paragraphe de l'Article XIII du Traité de Berlin, lequel est ainsi conçu :

La frontière " suit au nord de Karanlik les crêtes de Vosna et de Zuvak, la ligne qui sépare les eaux de la Duka et celles de Karagac-Sou, et rejoint la Mer Noire entre les deux rivières de ce nom." La Commission ayant reconnu la ligne de partage ci-dessus de Karatoprak à la Mer Noire, M. le Président déclare la discussion ouverte pour la détermination du point de départ de la frontière sur le bord de la mer.

M. le Commissaire de France fait observer que la ligne géométrique de partage des eaux se bifurque en arrivant à la côte, et présente deux branches distinctes entre lesquelles se trouve un ravin qui débouche dans la baie d'Atlaman. Il propose de fixer le point de départ de la frontière à l'intersection du thalweg de ce ravin avec le bord de la baie.

M. le Commissaire de Russie reconnaît que la proposition de M. le Commissaire de France est conforme à la lettre du Traité de Berlin, mais dans la pratique elle offre le grave inconvénient d'attribuer une partie de la baie à la Turquie, et l'autre partie à la Roumélie Orientale. Il déclare qu'il est prêt à se rallier à cette proposition, pourvu qu'il soit bien spécifié dans l'acte diplomatique que les populations des deux côtés de la frontière auront en commun la jouissance de cette baie.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie pense que la Commission n'a pas qualité pour décider

si la baie sera ou non mitoyenne, la solution de cette question appartenant, suivant lui, aux deux Gouvernements intéressés. Il est d'avis de voter purement et simplement sur la proposition de M. le Commissaire de France.

A la suite de cette observation, *M. le Président* met aux voix l'amendement proposé par M. le Commissaire de Russie.

L'amendement est adopté par 6 voix contre 1, la voix de la minorité est celle de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.

La proposition de M. le Commissaire de France est ensuite mise aux voix et adoptée à l'unanimité.

La Commission passe à la détermination de la frontière entre le point de départ tel qu'il vient d'être fixé et le hameau de Kara-Toprak, exclusivement.

M. le Commissaire de France fait la proposition suivante :—

"A partir du bord de la baie d'Atlaman, la frontière suit le fond du ravin qui débouche dans cette baie et sort de ce ravin pour rejoindre la ligne géométrique du partage des eaux qu'elle suit jusqu'aux abords du hameau de Kara-Toprak."

Cette proposition est acceptée à l'unanimité.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 8 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 35.—Séance tenue le 19 Mai, 1879, à Délir-Achou.

Président, M. le Comte de WURMBRAND.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seifoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 34 est lu et adopté.

M. le Colonel Phillippoff présente à la Commission M. Paulozoff, Officier Topographe Russe.

La Commission ayant exécuté la reconnaissance de la partie de frontière comprise entre Kara-Toprak et Délir-Achou, *M. le Président* déclare la discussion ouverte pour la fixation du tracé entre ces deux points.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie fait observer que la ligne de partage des eaux passe près de la limite du hameau de Kara-Toprak, dont la presque totalité des maisons et

des terrains de culture restent au sud de cette ligne et que les villages de Moussa-Keui et de Délir-Achou se trouvent l'un au Sud, l'autre au Nord de cette même ligne.

Il fait, en conséquence, la supposition suivante:

Entre Kara-Toprak et Delir-Achou la frontière suit la ligne géométrique de partage des eaux, les hameaux de Kara-Toprak et de Moussakeui restant à la Turquie, le hameau de Délir-Achou à la Roumélie Orientale.

M. le Commissaire de Russie prie la Commission de prendre en considération les intérêts des habitants du hameau de Kara-Toprak, et de vouloir bien décider que le territoire du hameau soit rattaché à la Roumélie Orientale. Il s'agit, d'après lui, d'une simple question d'humanité: laisser ce hameau à la Turquie, ce serait vouloir la ruine des deux ou trois familles qui l'habitent et condamner leurs maisons et leurs biens à une destruction certaine. Il fait appel aux sentiments de commisération de ses collègues et ajoute qu'il ne s'agit au surplus que d'un territoire de 3 ou 4 hectares.

M. le Président, prenant acte du désidératum formulé par M. le Commissaire de Russie, dit que la Commission doit se prononcer entre deux tracés: l'un proposé par M. le Commissaire de Russie, contourne le territoire de Kara-Topak de façon à rattacher ce hameau à la Roumélie Orientale et prend ensuite la ligne géométrique pour se confondre avec le premier.

Le premier tracé est adopté par la Commission à la majorité de 4 voix contre 3. Des voix de la minorité sont celles de MM. les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, et de Russie.

M. le Commissaire de Russie dit que les conséquences de ce vote sont la ruine immédiate des quelques familles qui habitent Kara-Toprak, et qu'en l'acceptant la Commission renonce au principe qu'elle a hautement proclamé de tenir compte des intérêts des populations.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie ne saurait s'associer à l'opinion qui vient d'être exprimée par son collègue de Russie. Les familles qui habitent Kara-Toprak y sont installées depuis quarante ans, et il ne voit pas pourquoi elles ne continueraient pas à y vivre paisiblement, aussi bien que celles du village voisin de Moussakeui et de tous les villages Bulgares du Vilayet d'Andrinople; il ne voit pas davantage en quoi il a pu déroger aux principes posés par la Commission en votant pour une proposition qui s'appuie sur le texte même du Traité de Berlin.

M. le Commissaire de France dit qu'en votant pour la proposition de M. le Commissaire de Turquie, il croit être resté fidèle aux principes posés par la Commission dans sa séance du 8 Mai. La Commission a, en effet, admis dans cette séance que la frontière serait tracée de façon à ne pas couper les propriétés privées, et que dans ce but elle pourrait s'écarter de la ligne géométrique pour contourner les limites de ces propriétés. La presque totalité des terrains de Kara-Toprak se trouvant au sud de cette ligne, il a voté pour qu'ils soient rattachés à la Turquie. Si, au contraire, la ligne géométrique avait laissé la plus grande partie de ces terrains au nord, il aurait voté pour qu'ils fussent rattachés à la Roumélie Orientale. Il pense qu'en agissant ainsi il reste rigoureusement dans les limites de la mission technique qui lui est confiée.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 9 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 36.—Séance du 24 Mai, 1879, à Karaulik.

Président, M. le Comte de WURMBRAND.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coumnertu.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seifoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Omik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 35 est lu et adopté.

La Commission ayant reconnu le terrain entre le village de Delir-Achou et le Mont-Vosna arrête à l'unanimité ainsi qu'il suit le tracé de la frontière entre ces deux points.

Du village de Delir-Achou jusqu'au Svéti-Ilia, la ligne-frontière continue à suivre le partage des eaux entre le Karagac-Sou et les affluents qui se rendent à la Mer Noire au nord; les villages de Vizitza et de Kalova restant à la Turquie; de Svéti-Ilia jusqu'au Mont-Vosna, elle suit le partage des eaux entre le Karaulik-Déré et les mêmes affluents, le village de Konak restant à la Turquie et celui d'Urunkeui ainsi que la chapelle de Svéti-Ilia située au sommet du Mont-Vosna, à la Roumélie Orientale.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie fait observer que la Commission n'a pas encore reçu le plan au $\frac{1}{42,000}$ de la région comprise entre Delir-Achou et Bélévrin. Il a néanmoins accepté le tracé ci-dessus parce qu'il est très-clairement marqué sur le terrain et qu'il ne peut y avoir aucune difficulté à le reporter sur la carte. Mais il propose que pour la partie de frontière comprise entre le Mont-Vosna et Bélévrin, la Commission tout en continuant à en faire la reconnaissance réserve le vote définitif jusqu'à ce qu'elle ait reçu le plan au $\frac{1}{21,000}$.

M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne est d'avis qu'en principe la Commission doit fixer la frontière sur les lieux au fur et à mesure qu'elle en fait la reconnaissance; il ne croit pas qu'on puisse passer outre sans prendre de décision.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie est du même avis.

M. le Président dit que si la reconnaissance permet à la Commission de déterminer la frontière au moyen de lignes naturelles qui ne puissent être l'objet d'aucune contestation ni sur le terrain ni sur le plan, la proposition de M. le Commissaire d'Italie serait sans objet. En conséquence il propose à la Commission de poursuivre sa reconnaissance et de ne voter sur cette proposition que si une difficulté surgit.

La Commission se range à l'unanimité à l'opinion de M. le Président.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 10 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 37.—Séance tenue le 26 Mai, 1879, à Kara-Evren.

Président, M. le Comte de WURMBRAND.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 36 est lu et adopté.

M. le Président expose que la Commission a reconnu la ligne de partage des eaux entre le bassin de Karanlik-Déré et les affluents qui vont à la Mer Noire au nord, depuis le Mont Vosna jusqu'à un point situé au nord-ouest du village de Kara-Evren. Il fait observer que le texte du Traité de Berlin ne dit pas que la frontière doit suivre cette ligne, et il pense qu'il y a lieu de poursuivre la reconnaissance de la région pour que la Commission soit à même de discuter les diverses solutions qui peuvent être proposées.

M. le Commissaire de Russie annonce que la feuille comprenant le lever du terrain entre Délir-Achou et Bélévrin, qu'il comptait recevoir ces jours-ci, a été par suite d'une erreur expédiée à la Commission de délimitation des frontières de Bulgarie. Le service topographique fait préparer une autre copie de cette feuille; mais celle-ci ne pourra parvenir à la Commission que dans une dizaine de jours. Il pense que vu cette circonstance et afin d'éclairer complétement la Commission, il est nécessaire de faire un lever exact de la tête de la vallée de Karanlik, en y comprenant le village de Kara-Evren. Il peut mettre pour ce travail à la disposition de la Commission MM. les officiers topographes Paulozow et Schpakowski, ce dernier étant arrivé de la veille.

M. le Commissaire Anglais pense aussi qu'il est nécessaire de faire un lever; car il croit comme ses collègues d'Allemagne et d'Autriche-Hongrie, qu'il faut fixer la frontière sur les lieux. Il ajoute que pour le lever dont il s'agit, M. de Wolski prêtera son concours aux deux officiers topographes Russes.

A la suite de cette déclaration, la Commission décide qu'il y a lieu de faire exécuter le lever de la tête de la vallée de Karanlik et fixe les limites de ce lever.

M. le Colonel Philippoff fait connaître qu'il est obligé de s'absenter pour aller à Constantinople prendre certaines dispositions dans le but d'assurer la marche des travaux de la Commission dans le Rhodope. Il remet ses pouvoirs à M. le Lieutenant-

Colonel Coummerau qui tient sa lettre de nomination de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et peut siéger dans la Commission au même titre que lui.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 11 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 38.—Séance tenue le 1er Juin, 1879, à Kara-Evren.

Président, M. le Comte de WURMBRAND.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 37 est lu et adopté.

M. le Président met sous les yeux de la Commission la minute du lever de la tête du bassin de Karanlik-Déré, qui a été effectué conformément à la décision prise dans la séance du 26 Mai. Il croit de son devoir de rendre hommage au zèle et à l'habileté de MM. de Wolski, Paulozoff, Schpakowski, et Seïfoullah, qui ont exécuté en commun ce travail, et de proposer à ses collègues de leur voter de vifs remercîments.

Cette proposition est adoptée à l'unanimité.

La Commission passe ensuite à la discussion du tracé de la frontière entre le Mont Vosna et Kara-Evren.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie fait la proposition suivante :—

Du Mont Vosna jusqu'à un point situé à l'ouest du village de Kara-Evren, au croisement des routes Kara-Evren-Belevren, Tekenzio-Evrenskeui, la frontière suit la ligne géométrique de partage des eaux entre les affluents qui vont à la Mer Noire au nord et le bassin du Karanlik-Déré, les villages de Karanlik et de Kara-Evren restant à la Turquie. La ligne qu'il propose n'est que la continuation de celle qui a été suivie jusqu'à présent; c'est une ligne naturelle, qui réunit toutes les conditions voulues pour constituer une bonne frontière géographique.

M. le Commissaire de Russie accepte cette ligne jusqu'au point marqué *A* sur le plan; de ce point, il propose de tracer la frontière suivant une ligne qui passerait entre les villages de Karanlik et de Kara-Evren, en laissant à la Roumélie Orientale ce dernier village ainsi que la tête du bassin de Karanlik-Déré, et aboutirait au point terminus du tracé proposé par M. le Commissaire de Turquie. Il justifie sa proposition par les considérations suivantes :—

Le texte du Traité de Berlin dit que la frontière passe entre Belevrin et Alatli et rejoint le Mont Vosm en laisssant le village de Karanlik au sud; il se borne, comme on le voit, à donner des points de direction sans spécifier le moins du monde que la frontière doive suivre le partage des eaux entre le Karanlik-Déré et le Faki-Déré.

Le tracé qui semble à M. le Commissaire de Russie le mieux répondre aux conditions énoncées dans le texte qu'il vient de rappeler est celui qui, contournant au nord et à l'ouest le village de Karanlik, passerait entre ce dernier village et celui de Kara-Evren et prendrait ensuite une direction dont le prolongement irait aboutir au point de partage situé entre les villages de Belevrin et d'Alatli. La ligne qu'il propose satisfait à ces conditions.

M. le Commissaire de France fait observer que la ligne de partage proposée par M. le Commissaire de Turquie se continue depuis le point de croisement de route où s'arrête le tracé actuellement en discussion jusqu'au village d'Alatli, où elle rejoint la ligne de partage, que, d'après le Traité, la frontière doit suivre jusqu'à Buyuk-Derbend. Suivant toute probabilité, la Commission adoptera comme frontière le prolongement dont il s'agit entre le point de croisement et Alatli. Dans ces conditions, en se plaçant au point de vue invoqué par M. le Commissaire de Russie, il faudrait, pour que les intérets des deux parties fussent sauvegardés, que la ligne-idéale tirée du point de partage entre Belevrin et Alatli tangentiellement à un cercle ayant Karanlik pour centre et un rayon de 3 ou 4 kilom., laissât de chaque côté d'elle des surfaces équivalentes. Or, il suffit d'examiner la Carte Autrichienne pour se convaincre que le tracé proposé par M. le Commissaire de Turquie satisfait pleinement à ces conditions: et c'est au point de vue de M. le Commissaire de France une raison de plus pour l'accepter.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne se rallie à la proposition de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey pour les raisons suivantes:—

1. D'une manière générale, toutes les fois que la frontière quitte un partage d'eau, il en est fait expressément mention dans le texte du Traité; or, celui-ci n'en dit pas un mot pour le cas qui nous occupe. D'ailleurs, quelle raison auraient eue les auteurs de ce Traité pour délaisser partiellement, sur une longueur de quelques kilomètres, une ligne naturelle qui s'étend sans interruption de Buyuk-Derbend à la Mer Noire?

2. Le tracé proposé par M. le Commissaire de Russie qui attribue à la Roumélie Orientale la tête du bassin de Karanlik serait à son avis une mauvaise solution au point de vue administratif; car une pareille ligne de démarcation sera toujours difficile à retrouver sur le terrain et pourra donner lieu à des contestations entre les populations intéressées.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne croit donc rester à la fois dans la lettre et dans l'esprit du Traité, en votant pour la ligne de partage.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie dit qu'à son avis le Traité de Berlin n'oblige nullement la Commission à suivre la ligne de partage; car, d'après lui, si les auteurs du Traité avaient eu l'intention formelle de prendre cette ligne pour frontière, ils n'auraient pas manqué d'en faire expressément mention. La ligne proposée par M. le Commissaire de Russie est nettement indiquée par des accidents topographiques, puisqu'elle suit des partages d'eau secondaires ou des fonds de vallées. A ce titre elle lui paraît pratiquement acceptable.

M. le Commissaire de Russie développe des considérations analogues et arrive aux mêmes conclusions.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie reconnaît que le texte du Traité peut à la rigueur être interprété dans le sens indiqué par M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie; mais il se demande quelles sont les raisons majeures qui peuvent faire préférer à une ligne naturelle formant une limite excellente, une ligne artificielle qui ne saurait donner, à son avis du moins, qu'une frontière pratiquement mauvaise. On ne pourrait, suivant lui, justifier l'adoption de cette dernière, que par le désir de laisser à la Roumélie Orientale le village de Kara-Evren. Or, comme le texte du Traité ne dit rien à ce sujet et laisse toute liberté à la Commission, il vote pour la solution qui lui paraît la meilleure au point de vue pratique et qui lui semble le mieux répondre à l'esprit du Traité, c'est-à-dire pour la ligne de partage.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie objecte que si l'intention du Traité de Berlin avait été de laisser Kara-Evren à la Turquie, on aurait mis dans le texte que la frontière passe au nord de Kara-Evren et non pas au nord de Karanlik.

M. le Commissaire de France répond que si l'intention formelle du Traité avait été de faire passer la frontière entre Karanlik et Kara-Evren de façon à laisser ce dernier

village à la Roumélie, cette intention aurait été énoncée explicitement, comme dans le cas des deux villages de Belevrin et de l'Alatli.

La discussion étant close, *M. le Président* met aux voix la proposition de M. le Commissaire de Turquie, qui a été faite la première. Cette proposition est acceptée à la majorité de 4 voix contre 2.

Ont voté pour: MM. les Commissaires de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie.

Ont voté contre: MM. les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie.

A déclaré s'abstenir du vote, M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
COUMMERAU.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 12 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 39.—Séance du 2 Juin, 1879, à Bélevrin.

Président, M. le Capitaine NICOLAS.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seifoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 38 est lu et adopté.

Après avoir fait une reconnaissance sur les lieux la Commission arrête à l'unanimité le tracé suivant entre les villages de Kara-Evren et de Belevrin.

Du point de croisement des routes Kara-Evren-Belevrin, Tekendzio-Evreneskeui jusqu'à hauteur de Belevrin, la frontière suit la ligne géométrique de partage des eaux entre les cours d'eau qui vont à la Mer Noire au nord, et les affluents de Karanlik-Deré au sud, les villages de Tekendzio et de Belevrin restant à la Roumélie Orientale, ceux d'Evrénskeui et d'Alatli à la Turquie.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie annonce qu'en exécution des ordres de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général d'Andrinople un escadron de cavalerie de l'armée Turque a été mis en route pour Demirkoui, où il sera rendu incessament. Lorsque la Commission

aura terminé son travail jusqu'à la Toundja, le dit escadron viendra au devant d'elle et se mettra à sa disposition pour l'escorter au lieu et place de l'escadron Russe.

La Commission prend acte de cette déclaration.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
COUMMERAU.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 13 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 40.—*Séance du* 7 *Juin*, 1879, *à Buyuk-Derbend.*

Président, M. le Capitaine NICOLAS.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 39 est lu et adopté.

M. le Président donne lecture du texte du Traité qui s'applique à la partie de frontière compriso entre les villages de Belevrin et de Buyuk-Derbend, et qui est ainsi conçu :—

" De Buyuk-Derbend (la frontière) reprend la ligne de partage des eaux entre les affluents de la Toundja au nord et ceux de la Maritza au sud, jusqu'à hauteur de Kaïbilar, qui reste à la Roumélie Orientale, passe au sud de V. Almali, entre le bassin de la Maritza au sud, et différents cours d'eau qui se rendent directement vers la Mer Noire, entre les villages de Belevrin et d'Alatli."

La Commission, après avoir reconnu sur le terrain la ligne dont il s'agit, arrête à l'unanimité le tracé comme il suit :—

De Belevrin jusqu'à Kaïbilar la frontière suit la ligne géométrique de partage des eaux entre le bassin du Faki-Déré au nord, et celui de la Maritza au sud, les villages de V. Almali et de Kaïbilar restant à la Roumélie Orientale, ceux d'Ermélika-Malalé et de Malkochlar à la Turquie. Le cimetière de ce dernier village, lequel est coupé en deux par la ligne géométrique, est rattaché en totalité à la Turquie.

De Kaïbilar jusqu'au point culminant de la montagne de Tchakir-Baba-Tepessi, située à la ouest de Buyuk-Derbend, la frontière suit la ligne géométrique de partage des eaux entre le bassin de la Maritza au sud, et les affluents qui se rendent dans le Toundja au nord.

M. le Commissaire de Russie annonce qu'il sera en mesure de fournir à la Commission, lorsqu'elle se transportera dans le Rhodope, le plan de réseau des points géodésiques de cette chaîne qui vient d'être relevé par les soins du service topographique Russe.

La Commission prend acte de cette déclaration.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
COUMMERAU.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 14 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 41.—*Séance tenue le* 11 *Juillet*, 1879, *à Hamza-Begli.*

Président, M. le Capitaine NICOLAS.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 40 est lu et adopté.

La Commission ayant fait la reconnaissance du terrain de Buyuk-Derbend jusqu'à Dokolianka-Baïr sur la rive droite de la Rivière Toundja, M. le Président declare la discussion ouverte pour la fixation du tracé entre ces deux points.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie fait la proposition suivante : Entre le Tchakir-Baba-Tépessi, à l'ouest de Buyuk-Derbend, et l'extrémité méridionale de la crête du Kizilidzi-Baïr, à l'ouest de Hamza-Begli, la frontière suit le partage des eaux entre le Provoda et autres affluents qui se rendent à la Toundja au sud, et les Rivières Kutchuk et Buyuk-Derbend et autres affluents qui se rendent à la Toundja au nord, les villages de Buyuk-Derbend de Kardalan et d'Urumbegli restant à la Roumélie Orientale, ceux du Téké et d'Hamza-Begli à la Turquie. De l'extrémité de la crête du Kizilidzi-Baïr, elle atteint en ligne droite le point culminant d'Uzum-Baïr, et de ce dernier rejoint également en ligne droite le point déterminé l'année dernière sur la rive droite de la Toundja à Dokolianka-Baïr.

M. le Commissaire de Russie accepte la ligne ci-dessus de Buyuk-Derbend jusqu'à un point situé à l'est d'Hamza-Begli; de ce point il propose de rejoindre le sommet d'Uzum-Baïr en enveloppant les maisons d'Hamza-Begli de façon à rattacher ce village à la Roumélie Orientale. Du sommet d'Uzum-Baïr jusqu'à la Toundja, il accepte le tracé de M. le Commissaire de Turquie.

Il rappelle pour justifier sa proposition que l'année dernière la Commission a tracé la frontière en ligne droite depuis un point situé dans le lit du Karabach-Déré, au sud

de Soudzak jusqu'au Dokolianka-Baïr. Dans le tracé actuellement proposé par M. le Commissaire de Turquie, cette ligne droite prolongée jusqu'à Buyuk-Derbend laisse une surface de terrain plus considérable au-dessus qu'au-dessous d'elle: or, en se reportant à la décision prise l'année dernière par la Commission, il pense qu'il devrait y avoir équivalence exacte de surface de part et d'autre de cette ligne, et c'est en se plaçant à ce point de vue qu'il a fait sa proposition.

M. le Commissaire de France dit qu'à son avis la ligne par rapport à laquelle on doit comparer les surfaces n'est pas celle dont parle M. le Commissaire de Russie, mais bien la ligne qui joint les centres des villages de Soudzak et de Buyuk-Derbend. Aux termes du Traité de Berlin, la frontière doit contourner, en les laissant au nord, chacun de ces deux villages, mais, dans l'intervalle qui les sépare, elle devrait évidemment reprendre la ligne des centres si l'on voulait s'en tenir à la solution géométrique et faire un partage rigoureux de territoires. C'est donc bien cette ligne qui est la vraie base de comparaison. Or, en examinant la carte on constate qu'elle laisse au nord comme au sud des surfaces équivalentes.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne fait observer que la Commission aurait pu l'année dernière tout en restant fidèle au Traité de Berlin, suivre à partir de Soudzak la direction générale déterminée par l'extrémité orientale du Sakkar-Baïr et le village de Buyuk-Derbend. Cette ligne pourrait être prise comme base de comparaison à aussi juste titre que celles dont parlent MM. les Commissaires de Russie et de France; or, il est facile de voir qu'elle laisse entièrement au-dessous d'elle la frontière proposée par M. le Commissaire de Turquie; d'où il résulte qu'il n'y a pas lieu, suivant M. le Major Gordon, de prendre en considération les arguments développés par M. le Commissaire de Russie.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie fait observer à son tour que la solution proposée par son collègue de Russie aurait pour effet de rattacher seulement les maisons de Hamza-Begli à la Roumélie Orientale, les terrains de culture du village restant entièrement en dehors de la ligne qu'il propose; une telle délimitation aurait des inconvénients dans la pratique.

M. le Commissaire de Russie répond que les terrains de culture d'Hamza-Begli s'étendent fort au loin de ce village au nord comme au sud, et qu'il faudra les couper dans tous les cas.

La discussion étant épuisée, M. le Président met aux voix la proposition de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey, laquelle est adoptée à la majorité de 6 voix contre 1. La voix de la minorité est celle de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
COUMMERAU.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 15 in No. 245.

Protocole No. 42.—Séance tenue le 20 Juin, 1879, à Mesek.

Président, M. le Major GORDON.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerau.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Omnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 41 est lu et adopté.

M. le Commissaire de Russie annonce qu'il peut mettre cinq officiers topographes à la disposition de la Commission pour le lever de la chaîne du Rhodope. Il pense qu'il convient de les envoyer de suite en avant et de confier à chacun d'eux le lever d'une portion de la frontière. De cette manière les opérations seraient entreprises sur plusieurs points à la fois et pourraient être plus rapidement terminées. D'après les instructions qu'il a reçues, chaque officier topographe doit être accompagné de dix soldats Russes, dont quatre fantassins et six cavaliers. Il demande, en outre, que M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey veuille bien, de son côté, leur fournir l'escorte qu'il jugera nécessaire.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie déclare qu'il est prêt à accepter la proposition de son collègue de Russie, pourvu que celui-ci renonce à faire accompagner les topographes par des soldats Russes en armes, la présence de ceux-ci dans la région du Rhodope pouvant entraîner de graves complications. Il ajoute qu'il s'engage à fournir à chacun des officiers topographes les aides, interprètes et soldats d'escorte qui leur sont nécessaires.

M. le Commissaire de Russie répond que les instructions qu'il a reçues ne lui permettent pas d'accéder au désir formulé par son collègue de Turquie, mais qu'il va immédiatement en référer à son Ambassadeur.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne dit que la difficulté imprévue qui surgit va causer un retard qu'il faut éviter à tout prix. Dans ce but, il propose d'envoyer sur le champ, à Cadir-Tépé, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski, M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah et un officier topographe Russe, avec mission de lever la zone-frontière en marchant de l'ouest à l'est à la rencontre de la Commission, qui opérera, de son côté, de l'est à l'ouest avec le groupe d'officiers topographes Russes. Si la réponse attendue de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Russie est de nature à aplanir les difficultés qui se sont élevées, il sera alors loisible de profiter de l'offre faite par M. le Colonel Philippoff et de lui demander de vouloir bien détacher deux ou trois officiers topographes Russes avec mission d'opérer à l'est du groupe de M. de Wolski.

La proposition de M. le Major Gordon est acceptée à l'unanimité.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

No. 246.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 400.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of the fresh proposals which M. Boerescо, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has submitted for approval to the German Government in connection with the Roumanian difficulty.

M. de Boerescо left Berlin last night for St. Petersburgh, and I had not the pleasure of seeing him during his very short stay here, but at his request, M. Zitcano, the Resident Roumanian Agent, furnished me to-day with the copy which I now inclose.

I understand that M. Boerescо hopes he may be able to return to Berlin on Saturday next, and it is his intention afterwards to proceed to Paris and London, and, I believe, also to Rome.

No decision will be taken by the German Government with regard to these proposals until they have had an opportunity of consulting the Governments of the other Powers equally interested in this question; but I have no reason to suppose that they consider them as otherwise than unsatisfactory in their present form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

Inclosure in No. 246.

Proposals communicated to the German Government by M. Boerescо, August 11, 1879.

[See No. 155.]

No. 247.

Colonel Stokes to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sulina, August 12, 1879.*

ALL Russian ships of war, excepting two gun-boats and tug ceded to Bulgaria, left Sulina to-day for Russia.

No. 248.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 12, 1879, 9·15 P.M.*

GIERS wants the Arab-Tabia question referred to the late Servian Delimitation Commission.

I asked him whether it was with the view of leaving the matter absolutely in the hands of the majority. He said that was the proposal which he intended to submit to the Emperor to-morrow, and that, in the meanwhile, he wished the Powers to order the Commission to remain where they are now for a few days.

No. 249.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 610.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 12, 1879, 11 P.M.*

GENERAL HAMLEY suggests that your Lordship might desire Consul-General Palgrave to urge upon Bulgarian Government necessity of at once giving the most stringent orders that Major Ardagh's party shall not be molested, as they appear to

have been fired upon and have been prevented by Bulgarian authorities from pursuing their work on the frontier.'

No. 250.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 13, 1·48 P.M.)

(No. 611.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 13, 1879, 10·30 A.M.*

PORTE has telegraphed to Vali of Korthrova instructing him to recognize Mr. St. John temporarily as Her Majesty's Consul at Prisrend. Shall I apply for Berat for him?

No. 251.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 13, 1879, 12·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 218, please repeat the last sentence but one of your telegram No. 605, which begins "The effect of giving."

No. 252.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 13, 1879, 5·35 P.M.*

THE following figures have been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

[See No. 249.]

Pray urge Bulgarian Government accordingly.

No. 253.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 13, 1879, 5·45 P.M.*

YOURS No. 611. Yes; you had better get a Berat.

No. 254.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 416.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 13, 1879.*

BARON VON DEN BRINCKEN communicated to me yesterday a paper containing the proposals of M. Boerescо for the solution of the difficulty respecting the Jewish community in Roumania, which is identical with that forwarded by you in your despatch No. 400 of the 11th instant.

In reply to his request for my opinion of them, I intimated to him that I considered them to be wholly unsatisfactory, and that their acceptance would amount to a surrender of the position to which the Western Powers had hitherto adhered on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 255.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 112.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1879.

IT appears from information which has reached Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople that Major Ardagh and his party, who are engaged on the work of the Boundary Commission on the western frontier of Bulgaria, have been fired upon, and prevented by the Bulgarian authorities from pursuing their work.

I have sent you, therefore, instructions to-day by telegraph to urge the Bulgarian Government to give the most stringent orders that Major Ardagh's party shall not be molested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 256.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 612.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 13, 1879.

REPETITION of last sentence but one of telegram No. 605:—

"The effect of giving the Pass of Mezzovo to Greece, as suggested to me by French Ambassador, deserves serious consideration."

No. 257.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14, 2 P.M.)

(No. 39 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 14, 1879, *noon.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 37, I venture to add that the pretext put forward in the telegram of the Russian Government to their Mission here is that, since Servian Commission has completed its task, the services of its members could be at once availed of to bring Arab-Tabia question to a settlement. Object in view is, however, clearly not so much to save time as to obtain services of present Servian Commissioners, among whom Russian Commissioner feels certain of securing a majority, for he acknowledges it would be necessary for him to proceed in the first instance to St. Petersburgh and Constantinople to study question, and to adjourn Commission for at least six weeks, in order that the Commissioners should receive high powers and identical instructions from their respective Governments.

No. 258.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14, 5·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *August* 14, 1879, 4·20 P.M.

THE demarcation of the frontier from the Black Sea to Cadirtepe and map of same were signed and sealed by all the Commission to-day, and will be sent to your Lordship by next messenger.

No. 259.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14, 5·45 P.M.)

(No. 54. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August* 14, 1879, 7·55 A.M.

SIX militia officers, of whom two are Northern Bulgarians, the rest Russians, have published note in the Bulgarian organ, denying that they had drunk, as alleged by General Vitalis, the health of the Sultan on the occasion of his birthday. They

declared that they only drank the health of their venerated Sovereign the Czar, and that the contrary "assertion is calculated to compromise their good relations with the wise and patriotic population of this province."

I have reason to believe letter was corrected by Russian Consul-General before going to press.

General Vitalis has officially demanded names of officers, which are, however, known to him from another letter, which the Greek organ refuses to publish.

The Italian Commissioner has suddenly left for Constantinople, so that the Commission cannot take immediate cognizance of this disloyal act of the officers. A private meeting of Commission will be held to-morrow to consider [? why] the Italian Commissioner should not be called in on the strength of a motion respecting Customs, which the French Commissioner proposes to make, in order to enable me to bring a declaration as to position of foreign officers in local forces.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 260.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 126.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 14, 1879, 5 P.M.

UNDER-SECRETARIES have written to Count Andrassy to ask his opinion on the proposal to let Servian Frontier Commission report on the Dobrudscha boundary, and they have said that they do not consider it acceptable.

Servian Commission, they say, is not composed of men of same standing as those on the Principality or Boundary Commission, and it would not be proper to refer work of the latter to it for revision.

Only Government of those whose support of the decision of last year is considered doubtful is that of Germany, as the Italians are represented here as having pronounced themselves favourably.

No. 261.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1064.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1879.

I HAVE caused your Excellency's despatch No. 595 of the 8th ultimo to be referred to Major-General Sir Arnold Kemball, as suggested by you.

I now transmit, for your information, copies of my letter to Sir A. Kemball and of two letters which I have received from that officer in reply.*

Your Excellency will perceive that the Report on the Turco-Persian boundary, which the Porte is under the impression had been drawn up by the Anglo-Russian Commissioners, has no existence.

In his Memorandum, which accompanies your Excellency's despatch, Colonel Clarke states that the working map of the Turco-Persian frontier used by Sir A. Kemball is in his (Colonel Clarke's) possession.

With regard to the papers which Sir A. Kemball suggests should be supplied to Colonel Clarke, I have to state that copies of the letters of the 28th October and 6th November last were forwarded to him with my despatch No. 14 of the 28th March last.

A copy of the Report drawn up by Sir Fenwick Williams of the 12th September, 1852, relating to the expropriation of Khotour, which was sent home by Lieutenant-Colonel Shiel, is inclosed herewith.†

The unofficial letter addressed by Sir A. Kemball to your Excellency, to which he makes allusion, was dated the 28th January last, and a copy is also inclosed for convenience of reference.‡

I further transmit, for your Excellency's information, a sheet of the Turco-Persian frontier, on a reduced scale, containing the country in the neighbourhood of Khotour, with the boundary as proposed by Sir A. Kemball and the Russian Commissioner

* To Sir A. Kemball, July 21; Sir A. Kemball, July 22; Sir A. Kemball, July 22, 1879.
† Lieutenant-Colonel Shiel, No. 138, September 29, 1852.
‡ Sir A. Kemball to Sir A. H. Layard, January 28, 1879.

marked thereon, and which proposed boundary-line is alluded to in the previous correspondence on this subject as the "silver-ink" line.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 262.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1067.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to convey to your Excellency the approval of your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 700 of the 5th instant, with regard to the mission of Said Pasha to investigate the state of affairs at Marash and Zeitoun.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 263.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1068.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 679, Secret, of the 30th ultimo, I have to state to your Excellency that the advice offered by you to the Sultan, with regard to the course he should pursue relative to the Greek question, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1073.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 682, Secret, of the 30th ultimo, reporting the substance of what passed during your interview with the Sultan on the previous day.

I have to state to your Excellency that the observations addressed by you to His Imperial Majesty in the course of this conversation have met with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 265.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1074.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1879.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency has reported in your despatch No. 680 of the 30th ultimo that you had endeavoured to engage the earnest attention of Aarifi Pasha, on his nomination to the office of Prime Minister, to the various questions affecting the interests of the Porte which have already formed the subject of frequent and recent representations on your part to the Sultan and to His Majesty's Ministers.

I have to state to your Excellency, in reply, that the urgent necessity for some progress in these matters, which have so unfortunately been too long neglected by the Porte, call for the exercise of the utmost vigilance on your Excellency's part, and your efforts in this direction meet with the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 266.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1075.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the representations which you have made to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in your despatch No. 657 of the 24th ultimo, with regard to the permission to return to Roumelia which has been granted to Ahmed Agha and Mitto Bektash, who were convicted of participation in the Bulgarian atrocities.

Her Majesty's Government also approve the note which your Excellency has addressed to the Porte on the same subject, copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 671 of the 27th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 267.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1077.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1879.

Sir,

THE telegram of which a copy is inclosed has been received from the Porte by Musturus Pasha, in which it is requested that the support of the British Minister at Belgrade may be afforded to the representations which his Turkish colleague has been instructed to address to the Servian Government on behalf of the populations of the territories ceded to Servia, who complain of their treatment at the hands of their new masters.*

I informed his Excellency, in reply, that Mr. Gould had already been directed to remonstrate against the ill-treatment of the Mahommedans in very energetic language, and that these instructions should be again repeated to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 268.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 82.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1879.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador in London has placed in my hands the telegram of which a copy is inclosed, requesting that the Ottoman Representative at Belgrade may receive the support of his British colleague in calling the attention of the Servian Government to the complaints which have reached the Porte from the populations of the districts ceded to Servia of their ill-treatment at the hands of the Servian authorities.*

I informed Mustafa Pasha, in reply, that instructions had already been sent to you to remonstrate against the ill-treatment of the Mahommedans in very energetic language; and I have now to request that you will again call the serious attention of M. Ristich to this matter, and express to his Excellency the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the new subjects of the Principality, whatever their creed or nationality, may be treated with justice and impartiality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 269.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 34.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 107 of the 26th ult., and of the view you have taken with regard to the

* No. 92.

resolutions moved by the French Commissioner on that day, bearing upon the postal and telegraphic service in the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 270.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Trotter.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1879.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 21 of the 24th ultimo, and to state to you, in reply, that I approve the instructions given by you to Captain Clayton, on proceeding to take up his post as British Vice-Consul at Van, a copy of which was forwarded with your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 271.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 60.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1879.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of the despatches noted in the margin, which I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, relative to the misunderstanding which has arisen respecting the delimitation of the Russo-Turkish frontier near Kurnourgan.*

A copy of the tracing on the Russian maps, so far as it has been agreed upon between the Turkish and Russian Commissioners, which accompanies Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 365, is also inclosed herewith; and I request that you will furnish me with any observations you have to offer upon the remarks contained in his Excellency's Reports Nos. 347 and 365 of the 28th and 30th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 272.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 28th March last, I transmit herewith, for your information, copies of the correspondence marked in the margin, relative to the delimitation of the Turco-Persian frontier at Khotour.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 273.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August* 14, 1879, 3 P.M.

OTTOMAN Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed to inform Greek Government that Greek Consul at Tricalla has been informed by Turkish authorities that Greek shepherds are in future prohibited from pasturing their flocks on Thessalian territory, as has long been the practice.

* The Earl of Dufferin, Nos. 328,* 336,* 347, and 365.* (Those marked with a star were sent with despatch No. 59 of August 7.)

† Sir A. H. Layard, No. 1534, December 15, 1878. Sir A. Kemball to Sir A. H. Layard, January 28; Sir A. H. Layard, No. 595, July 8; to Sir A. Kemball, July 21; Sir A. Kemball (two), July 22; to Sir A. H. Layard, No. , August , 1879. Lieutenant-Colonel Shiel, September 29, 1852.

Greek Minister considers this an arbitrary measure, and contrary to Treaty with Turkey, and has abstained from giving official answer until matter has been examined by the Cabinet.

(Copy sent to Constantinople.)

No. 274.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August* 14, 1879, 8·10 P.M.

REPORTS that Major Ardagh and his party had been fired on, &c., by the Bulgarians were telegraphed to me by the Ambassador at Constantinople, and contradicted by the same authority next day as mere inventions.

The Major arrived in Bulgaria yesterday at Kustendil, on his way to , and the Bulgarian Government, at my request, at once gave urgent orders for his assistance and protection in every respect.

No. 275.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 15, 1879, 2·15 P.M.

YOUR No. 54.

Was the letter of the six officers in the "Maritza" anonymous?

No. 276.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 450.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 15, 1879.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and read to me a despatch from his Government, which I believe to have been a Circular proposing that the question of the frontier between Bulgaria and Roumania in the neighbourhood of Silistria should be referred to the Servian Boundary Commission.

M. Bartholomei did not, however, leave with me a copy of this despatch.

I said in reply that I did not think that Her Majesty's Government would be able to agree to this proposal.

It seemed to me in the first place to be inconsistent with the provisions of the Treaty to hand over to a separate Commission charged with the demarcation of the Servian frontier the settlement of a portion of the frontier of Bulgaria which in Article II. of the Treaty is assigned as a whole to one body, called therein "the European Commission." I thought this argument had especial weight in a case like that under discussion, where the determination of the frontier line had given rise to a hot controversy which was not unlikely to be revived.

I added that, in my opinion, any arrangement proposed for the settlement of this question which did not include the principle of decision by the vote of the majority would be mere waste of time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 277.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1073.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 15, 1879.

I HAVE received from the German Government a copy of the proposals which M. Boeresco is bringing to the Courts of the Signatory Powers, and which I inclose herewith.

They appear to me wholly unsatisfactory. The Roumanian Government, indeed,

admit nominally the principle that no Roumanian is to be excluded on account of his religion from any political or civil rights; but they qualify their admission in practice by the assertion that people professing the Jewish religion are not Roumanians. They define "Roumanians" so as to exclude a certain religious belief; and then they say that no religious belief shall prevent any Roumanian from enjoying full political and social rights. Her Majesty's Government cannot work upon this proposal as any fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin, nor do they think that it is materially improved by the proposed emancipation of a certain nominal list of persons.

I do not overlook the difficulties which lie in the way of an immediate and complete emancipation of all Christian Roumanian Jews. The very magnitude of the operation may excuse the Roumanian Government from desiring to break the force of the sudden changes which it would effect, and to secure its ultimate results rather by gradual than by immediate measures.

If the proposed legislation was such as to present an assured prospect that within some limit of years the religious barrier would be entirely broken down, and to offer intermediately the emancipation of those classes which, by their culture and their stake in the country, could be at once admitted to political rights without danger, I think the Signatory Powers would do wisely to accept such proposal as a reasonable compromise. But the plan which is now submitted appears to amount to little more than the colourable assertion of a principle, which is immediately afterwards to be neutralized by the definition of the words in which it is expressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 278.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies and Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 15, 1879, 7·25 P.M.

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires proposed to-day that question of Arab-Tabia should be referred to Servian Commission. I said that I did not see my way to agreeing to this proposal, as the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier was assigned by Treaty of Berlin to the Bulgarian Commission, and would not be valid unless carried out in accordance with the Treaty.

No. 279.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.**

(No. 1078.) *Foreign Office, August* 15, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires this day made a proposal to the effect that the question of Arab-Tabia should be referred to the Servian Commission.

I replied that I did not think that Her Majesty's Government would be able to agree to this proposal, as the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier was assigned by the Treaty of Berlin to the Bulgarian Commission, and the decision upon this hotly-disputed point would not be valid unless it were formed in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty to that effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

* Identic despatches were sent to Sir A. Paget, Sir J. Walsham, Sir H. Elliot, Sir A. H. Layard, the Earl of Dufferin, and Mr. Gould.

No. 280.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 36.) *Foreign Office, August* 15, 1879.

Sir,

I SHOULD be glad to learn from you whether the letter from the six militia officers, which I understand from your telegram of the 14th instant has appeared in the "Maritza," was published anonymously in that organ.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 281.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 103. Political.) *Scutari, August* 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 102, Political, of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the Austrian Consular authorities, both here and at Prisrend, express great annoyance at reports which have been spread, as they say by the instigation of Turkish functionaries, that they have helped to develop the disorder and anarchy existing in North-east Albania with the object of affording an excuse for the advance of Austrian troops into this country.

The threatened acts of violence against the Mirdite Fandis arose from a prominent refugee Bosnian Chief having been murdered when traversing their district after having quitted Jacova. Whilst rumours have been industriously spread that the assassination was perpetrated through the influence of the Austrian Consul at Prisrend over the Roman Catholic Mirdites, I believe it is certain that the Bosnian Chief was murdered by Mahommedans, and by order of the self-constituted authorities of Jacova, with whom he had been unable to agree.

Nasif and Hussein Pasha continue to be pointed out as the secret leaders of the "Albanian movement," and which has resulted in plunging the vilayets over which they govern into a disorganization which surpasses the evils which were considered sufficient to authorize the remonstrances of Count Andrassy ending in the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina; I may, therefore, be pardoned for once more pointing out that they ought to be recalled without any further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 282.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 104. Political.) *Scutari, August* 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival here yesterday of the well-known Russian Slavophil emissary or agitator, Colonel Becker, and who was, during the Servian war, General Tchernaieff's Chief of the Staff.

Colonel Becker says that he has come to Scutari as representative of a M. Pyat, a French contractor of engineering works, who wishes to undertake to regulate the flow of the Rivers Drin and Boyana, and to partially drain Lake Scutari.

M. Pyat is residing at present at Athens, but Colonel Becker states that he has come here from Roumania, viâ Austria. Until recently he was living at Corfu, where he was supposed to be intimately connected with the Greek as also Albano-Italian Committees.

The New Italian Consul in Scutari, M. Zerboni, although very careful to repel all insinuations as to Italy having a policy of her own to pursue in North Albania, is believed, by those who are pleased to watch his proceedings, to be actively engaged in endeavouring to create an anti-Austrian feeling among the natives, and that the arrival of Colonel Becker is in some way connected with Italian and not Hellenic plots.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 283.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 14, 1879, 6·30 P.M.*

THE Governor-General professes to have no official knowledge of the military incident reported yesterday, but on hearing details from me this morning he expressed indignation at the proceedings of the officers, and, while attributing want of discipline in the militia to the incapacity of their Commander, he has promised to act with firmness and decision in the matter of the disloyalty displayed.

In the meantime, private telegrams have been received by the two Commissioners to the effect that Vitalis has been superseded by Streeker [?] Pasha.

No. 284.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 14, 1879, 8·20 P.M.*

THE President of the Commission has been requested to communicate to the Italian Commissioner a motion deposed by the French Commissioner to the effect that the establishment of a customs service is urgent, since large quantities of goods are being introduced free of duty over the Balkans for consumption at Constantinople, to the prejudice of nations trading by sea. He also proposes that the Porte should appoint inspectors over that service, in order to protect Imperial interests.

The Italian Commissioner will be requested to state when he will be able to attend a meeting.

His absence is very regrettable.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 285.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 16, 6 P.M.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 16, 1879, 4·43 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 46, Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the German Government is not sufficiently interested in Arab-Tabia question to care about expressing a decided opinion with regard to the proposal of the Russian Representative here that it should be referred to the Servian Commission.

He has been told that whatever joint decision in the matter may be taken by the other Powers more immediately interested will be acceptable to Germany.

No. 286.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 452.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 16, 1879.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of the correspondence marked in the margin* relative to the delimitation of the Turco-Persian frontier at Khotour.

I also inclose, for your information, a sheet of the Turco-Persian frontier on a reduced scale, containing the country in the neighbourhood of Khotour, marked with the so-called "silver-ink line," to which reference has been made in previous correspondence upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Sir A. H. Layard, No. 1534, December 15, 1878. Sir A. Kemball to Sir A. H. Layard, January 28; Sir A. H. Layard, No. 595, July 8; to Sir A. Kemball, July 21; Sir A. Kemball (two), July 22; to Sir A. H. Layard, No. 1064, August 14, 1879. Lieutenant-Colonel Shiel, September 29, 1852.

No. 287.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 455.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 16, 1879.*

I AM now enabled to send to you more detailed information with regard to the recent arrival at Philippopolis of very large consignments of cartridges from Yamboli, and of the transmission to Tatar-Bazardjik of further supplies, which, it is reported, are intended for distribution in Eastern Roumelia.

The despatch from Mr. Michell, of which a copy is inclosed herewith for your Excellency's information,* leaves little room to doubt that these supplies of ammunition have been forwarded in the manner described, so as to have the appearance of being sent under the official sanction of some Russian authority.

Her Majesty's Government do not for a moment believe that such proceedings can be sanctioned by the Imperial Government. But as it would appear that these compromising transactions have occurred, they consider it desirable to place before the Russian Government the proofs with which they have been furnished of their existence, as a justification of the representations upon this subject, which your Excellency has already been directed to make to them.

Your Excellency is accordingly authorized to submit to M. de Giers the original Way Bill which accompanied the 400 cases of rifle cartridges to which attention has been called by Mr. Michell, and I have to request that this document may eventually be returned to the Foreign Office.

I request that your Excellency will avail yourself of the opportunity to repeat to M. de Giers the assurance of the gratification with which Her Majesty's Government have learned the nature of the instructions which have been given by the Emperor in regard to this matter to Prince Labanoff.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 288.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. R. Thomson.

(No. 78.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 16, 1879.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 31 of the 30th ultimo, informing me that the Turkish Ambassador at Tehran had requested that English protection be extended to the subjects of Turkey in the Province of Asterabad, I instructed you by telegraph to-day to invite His Excellency confidentially to ascertain himself whether a compliance with his request on the part of Her Majesty's Government would cause annoyance to the Government of Persia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 289.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 614.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 16, 1879.*

IRADÉ appointing Saïvet, Sawas, and Ali Pashas Commissioners on Greek question is issued.

No. 290.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 615.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 16, 1879.*

FRENCH Ambassador has addressed a very strong note to the Porte, complaining of the recall of Vitalis and nomination of Streeker Pasha to command gendarmerie and

* Mr. Michell, No. 103, July 26.

militia in Eastern Roumelia as a breach of faith, and as giving a triumph to Aleko and Russian and Bulgarian parties. He demands that Vitalis should continue to have the rank of General of Brigade in the Turkish army, should have a command equal to that rank in the gendarmerie, and should be treated and paid in the same way as Baker Pasha. He has asked me to join him in this representation, but I have not thought it desirable to do so, as I consider his note much too violent. I have, however, pointed out to Safvet Pasha that there was an understanding between Caratheodory and the French Ambassador and myself that Vitalis should not for the present be removed, and that his recall under present circumstances is impolitic and opposed to the true interests of the Porte.

No. 291.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bujukdere, August 16, 1879.*

RUSSIAN Commissioner has received no reply to question put to Russian Government a fortnight ago, asking whether or no it would admit the competence of the Commission to discuss military road for Turkey through the south of Bulgaria, and states that if it is discussed he will leave the room.

He has asked for a further postponement of a week to await reply.

Commissioners are asking instructions from their Governments as to course to be followed if Russian Government denies their competence. Favour me [with] yours by telegraph.

No. 292.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 368.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 3, 1879.*

I HAD a conversation yesterday with M. de Giers on the Karaourgan question.

M. de Giers fully admitted that the British Government had a right to be consulted as to the determination of the point at which, under the Treaty of Berlin, the British Commissioner was entitled to intervene, and also agreed to placing it on the parallel of Karaourgan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 293.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 370.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 3, 1879.*

M. DE GIERS informed me yesterday that there is no such thing as a 1-verst Russian map of the districts bordering on the Russo-Turkish frontier, and informed me that Prince Labanoff denies that a map of any sort was communicated by the Commission to Colonel Clarke.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S.—In a subsequent conversation, M. de Giers read to me a despatch from Prince Labanoff, in which his Excellency expressly alluded to the 1-verst map; consequently M. de Giers must have been under a misapprehension when he assured me that there was no such thing.

D.

No. 294.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 371.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 9, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. de Giers has just called upon me, bringing with him an entirely fresh trace of the southern portion of the proposed delimitation of the Asiatic frontier between Turkey and Russia. In handing it he explained, to my very great surprise, that the previous trace which he had represented as having been just received from the Caucasus, and of which I forwarded your Lordship a copy on the 30th ultimo, had been laid down from description, and had, therefore, been inaccurate.

I could not help observing on the very insufficient grounds on which, under these circumstances, the accuracy of Colonel Clarke's trace had been called in question, and expressed my regret that our time should have been so needlessly wasted over the discussion of what had evidently been a purely imaginary line of demarcation. The trace on the new map, a copy of which I am promised in time for this mail, seems to correspond pretty accurately with that furnished by Colonel Clarke, except that shortly before reaching the parallel of Karaourgan it turns off from the crest, and descends in a south-westerly direction towards the river, reaching the parallel of Karaourgan about half a verst to the westward of Colonel Clarke's point.

Appearing at last to have in our possession the materials necessary to the discussion of the question in issue between our respective Commissioners, I proposed to M. de Giers that he and I should at once endeavour to settle the controversy.

I then referred to the second and third Protocols of the Conferences of the Delimitation Commission held on the 19th and 22nd May last, and pointed out the positive manner in which the Turkish Commissioners denied that they had ever left the crest, or agreed to the frontier being deflected towards the river in the manner represented on the Russian map.

M. de Giers seemed very much surprised at these remarks, and told me that he had not seen the Protocols in question, and that consequently he must postpone the further discussion of the subject until they were sent to him from Constantinople.

I further gathered, from the general character of M. de Giers' observations, that he is not empowered to do more than enter into a preliminary conversation with me on these subjects, with the view of their being ultimately referred to the Minister of War.

M. de Giers then intimated to me that he had received a telegram from Constantinople to the effect that the Russian Ambassador had been informed by Sir Austen Layard that he, M. de Giers, had admitted Colonel Clarke's right to determine the point west of Karaourgan, but that he had never intended to make any such admission. Upon this I showed him a copy of my telegram to your Lordship, No. 123 of the 3rd August, with the language of which he declared himself perfectly satisfied, adding, of his own accord, that he would be quite ready "to put his hand to" ("souscrire") the document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 295.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 383.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 12, 1879.*

M. DE GIERS informed me yesterday that it was the desire of the Russian Government that the reconsideration of the Arab-Tabia question should be referred to the members of the late Servian Commission, who, he said, seemed to have executed their task both with despatch and in a conciliatory spirit; that he had transmitted by post a Circular on the subject to the European Courts, but that he would be glad if I would telegraph the Emperor's wish to your Lordship, as it would be desirable that in the meantime the Commissioners should be instructed to remain where they were, instead of returning to Constantinople.

I inquired whether, in the event of this proposition being accepted, it was in the

contemplation of the Russian Government to leave the absolute decision of the controversy in the hands of the majority of the new Commission. Mr. de Giers replied that such was the proposal he intended to submit to the Emperor to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 296.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 18.)

(No. 388.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 13, 1879.

YESTERDAY I had another long conversation with M. de Giers on the Karaourgan question. He had not yet received copies of the Protocols for which he had written, and was therefore still unable to go into the matter definitely. He seemed inclined to argue, however, that if the Turkish and Russian Commissioners were agreed upon the frontier, and that it struck the parallel of Karaourgan at a point which was absolutely "near," to that place, the English Government could hardly object, even though the point in question was a little to the westward of the point marked on Colonel Clarke's map.

He added that Prince Lobanoff had telegraphed to him that the map of which he had shown me a copy was a map which had been signed by the Turkish Commissioners, and that therefore they were not in a position to dispute the accuracy of the trace indicated upon it.

I replied that, although under the Treaty of Berlin the intervention of the English Commissioner was not to take place until after the parallel of Karaourgan had been reached, it was evident that the deflection to the westward from the crest of the hill was designed to influence the location of that portion of the frontier which lay south of the parallel of Karaourgan, and that this was a circumstance which the British Government would be entitled to take into consideration, even supposing the deflection had been agreed to by the Turkish Commissioners, which had evidently not been the case.

I then called M. de Giers' attention to the way in which the Russian Commissioner had endeavoured to get the matter prejudged before Colonel Clarke's arrival, by continuing the trace to a point considerably to the south of Karaourgan, adding that there could be no doubt as to what his aim had been in so doing, and that it was impossible to expect either the English or the Turkish Governments to agree to any frontier which did not secure the strategic safety of Vezin. Under these circumstances, I felt sure that neither his Excellency nor the Emperor would be inclined to approve of the abnormal deflection to the westward from the mountain crest into the valley which the Russian Commissioner had attempted to impose upon his colleagues.

I can see that M. de Giers is very much inclined to give way upon the point, but his position is a very difficult one, as he does not like to make any admission for which he may be called to account by the Minister of War, in whose opinion on all these frontier questions the Emperor is naturally inclined to place great confidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 297.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 18.)

(No. 389.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 14, 1879.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 374 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a tracing of the map, transmitted by Prince Labanoff to M. de Giers, professing to be the official map of the Asiatic boundary, signed by the Russian and Turkish Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 298.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 18.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, August* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a translation I have made from the original Turkish of the Report of the Imperial Commissioners of Reform for the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Van.

It was originally intended that this translation should have accompanied my despatch No. 22, Political, of the 25th July, but the Report was not furnished to me in time for transmission with that despatch.

I have to request that your Lordship will study the document now sent in connection with the inclosure to my despatch, Separate and Very Confidential, of the 12th July, and my despatch No. 22, Political, of the 25th July.

Your Lordship, in your speech in the House of Lords on the 27th June, stated* that, "as to Armenia, a Commission is now sitting, composed of statesmen not inferior to the average of the distinguished statesmen of the Turkish Empire, to consider and report upon the reforms that ought to be carried out in Asia Minor." Perhaps I may be permitted to cap your Lordship's statement by saying that the two Commissioners alluded to are probably considerably more upright and honest than the majority of Turkish statesmen, and are, moreover, animated by the best intentions; and yet their own Report, viewed by the light of my remarks in despatch No. 22, Political, will show that they have made little or no practical progress with the work of reform, for although your Lordship states that "they were to consider and report upon the necessary reforms," yet a study of the instructions given to the Commissioners by the Porte will clearly show that it was originally intended that the Commissioners should have very extensive powers. On their arrival here it was supposed that they were provided with full powers, and proportional disappointment is felt by all the well-disposed portions of the population that hitherto so little has been done.

Or, regarding them solely in the light of a Commission of Inquiry, a reference to my despatch No. 22, Political, will show that hitherto the Porte has treated the recommendations of the Commission with very considerable contempt.

I have already reported that the Government has refused to sanction the scheme for the new gendarmerie, on account of the proposed increased expenditure. The Commissioners, fully impressed with the absolute necessity of an efficient police, have, I am glad to say, hitherto refused to modify their project in the sense desired by the Porte.

On the day of the departure of the last mail I received from Her Majesty's Ambassador a telegram to the effect that Baker Pasha was sending Colonel Cooper from England to organize the gendarmerie for Erzeroum, and that his Excellency hoped the Commissioners would insist on having him. Immediately on receipt of the message I went to the Commissioners, and urged them most strongly to telegraph at once to the Porte to say that they had heard that the services of a competent European officer were available, and to beg that he might be sent here accordingly. I used every argument I could think of to induce them to take this step, but after deliberation they distinctly refused to do so, on the grounds that it was not within their competence, and that it would be a piece of impertinence to the Sublime Porte specifically to propose an European. They had already asked for a competent person from Constantinople, on the grounds that no such person could be found here. In the first place, I replied that everything that concerned the welfare and prosperity of these countries was clearly within their competence. To their contention that it would be disrespectful to make such a demand, I could only say that it was almost the universal wish of the people here, and that the fact of their not having made such a proposition would doubtless hereafter be used by the Porte as an argument against it.

I regret much that I have been unable to persuade the Commissioners to do what is wanted, and I can only hope that his Excellency the Ambassador's influence at Constantinople may be able to secure the appointment of an European, for without it I am convinced no really efficient police force will be raised, and thorough reforms in this country are impossible without a well-organized police force.

With reference to this subject, I sent Her Majesty's Ambassador the following telegram on Saturday, the 26th ultimo:—

* "Times" of July 28.

"Thursday's telegram received. Commission has urged appointment of competent Chief from Constantinople, but will not venture specific proposal of European."

The Commissioners' Report, now sent, is on the whole a very fair record of the little that has been done. I am myself greatly disappointed at the results so far, which contrast by no means favourably with what appears to have been effected by Abedin Bey at Diarbekir. Yusuf Pasha, the first Commissioner here, in spite of his good qualities, is naturally deficient in energy, and is, moreover, so thoroughly disgusted with the conduct of the Porte, that unless the newly-appointed Ministry at Constantinople follow an entirely different policy from their predecessors, I fear the prospects of the present Commission effecting any substantial reform are indeed small. The first telegram that has been received from Aarifi Pasha, the new head of the Government, at a time when so many important questions are pending, has been an inquiry as to the amount of monthly expenditure of stationery by the Commission.

My own position on the Commission is a most unsatisfactory one. If Her Majesty's Government really intend to insist on thorough reform (and I learn from telegraphic report of Mr. Bourke's speech on the 23rd ultimo that such is their intention), they must, in my humble opinion, be prepared to insist on being represented officially on the Commission of Reforms. Although by the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin it is laid down that the (Signatory) Powers should superintend the application of the steps taken for the reform of these provinces, there is no doubt that neither Russia nor France, the only Powers besides England who have Representatives here, take much direct interest in the work of the Commissioners. M. Obermüller, the Russian Consul-General, has more than once told me that he has received no instructions whatever from his own Government on the subject of the Commission, and to such an extent is his apparent indifference to the matter that he has not yet made the personal acquaintance of the Imperial Commissioners.

M. Castagne, the French Acting Vice-Consul, was instructed by his Government to give a "bon accueil" to the Imperial Commissioners, but he does not appear to take much more interest in the matter of reforms than M. Obermüller.

I have more than once stated in former despatches that I believe a thorough reform of the government of this country to be impracticable without the presence in it of numerous efficient and upright European officials. The more I see of Turkish officials, and the better acquainted I become with the state of the country and the obstacles that lie in the way of reform, the more convinced I am that there will be found no other practical solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Report on the Work executed by the Imperial Commissioners from their arrival at Erzeroum up to July 15, 1879.

ON the 5/10th May we arrived at Erzeroum, the head-quarters of the vilayet. The Imperial Firman was publicly read with imposing ceremony, after which the faithful subjects of His Majesty, who have the welfare of the country at heart, uttered a prayer for the long life of the Sultan and the prosperity of his dominions. After the ceremony, the Commissioners, in conformity with their limited ("mahdud") instructions, commenced the work of ameliorating the state of the country and providing safeguards for its future good government.

2. We have immediately referred to the various competent authorities all petitions coming from the inhabitants of the Vilayet of Erzeroum demanding justice and redress of grievances. We ourselves made inquiries into the details. Amongst these affairs were many of ancient date. We have investigated the reasons and studied the causes which led to these cases having remained unsettled. As the Court of First Instance (Mekhemeh Bedayet) has had to deal with the investigation of both criminal and civil matters, and has had a vast deal of business before it, it has been difficult to prevent the Court getting into arrears. In order that the affairs of the inhabitants may be arranged according to the wish of the Sovereign, we have decided to divide the Court into two separate branches, civil and criminal. This arrangement is also in accordance with the instructions received from the Minister of Justice. We have inquired into the number and nature of all the cases brought during the past two years before the Court of First Instance, the Court of Appeal, and the Tribunal of Commerce, both as

to the number of cases already tried and of those still remaining in arrear. We have investigated the reason of the delays. We have also obtained written information as to the names of the Presidents and members of these Courts, their monthly salaries, &c. After giving these matters due consideration we have come to the conclusion that the various suits have been pushed forward with all practical rapidity, and that the various authorities concerned have worked zealously. Annexed to this Report are detailed statements on these subjects. It will be observed that the salaries of the members and clerks are insufficient, and it is necessary to pay them in a more liberal manner. We are preparing a scheme for a new scale of salaries.

3. We have inspected the Erzeroum prison, a central one, to which felons are sent from all the surrounding vilayets. It in consequence contains the large number of about 500 prisoners. Sometimes alone, and sometimes in company with the Vali Pasha, we have been amongst these prisoners to ascertain how many have been actually condemned and how many are awaiting trial. It is necessary that the prison should be kept cleaner, and we have given directions to the head jailor that the prisoners be supplied with properly cooked bread. As during the late war a great many of the prisoners succeeded in effecting their escape, we have written to the central and local authorities strongly urging that those who have escaped shall be re-arrested. We found that many of the prisoners were not in possession of any registration ticket showing their names, date of entrance, and length of sentence. We have had some register forms printed, and one of these duly filled up will be supplied to each prisoner.

As regards those men who are in prison without trial, we have written through the Vali Pasha to the various Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams to take the necessary steps to supply the Courts here with the *procès-verbaux* and full details as to the crimes of which they are accused, but as the Vali has not been furnished with the necessary information, we have put ourselves into direct correspondence with the local officials.

This has been followed by the satisfactory result that the *procès-verbaux* are now coming in, and the trials of the accused are proceeding.

4. As to the Geghi Beys against whom Mussulmans and Christians have given numerous petitions, we have, through the Vali, summoned them to Erzeroum. Some are already arrived, and those who have not come to order have been again summoned. For those who are here we have formed a separate Commission, composed of a Procureur-Général and other competent persons, four in number, and the preliminary inquiries are being energetically conducted.

5. During the past war wheat and other supplies for the Imperial troops were taken from many villages in the vilayet. The price of these supplies has not been deducted from the Vergoo tax for the years 1292–93, and it has been proposed that the receipts held by the villagers shall be exchanged for cheques [?] on the Military Department. The Government now demand prompt payment in full of the Vergoo tax. This has caused great dissatisfaction generally, and very many complaints have been addressed to us on the subject. We have, by means of a Special Commission, examined and legalized the bonds held by the villagers, and have proposed to the Vali Pasha, and to the Sublime Porte, that the sums in question may be deducted from the Vergoo now being collected.

6. The present members of the Central and Provincial Administrative Councils were elected many years ago. We telegraphed to the Sublime Porte that it was necessary that these members should be changed. A Vizirial order has been sent to the local Government (Vilayet) for the election of new members. These elections have now commenced.

7. In order that reforms should be lasting and complete, it is necessary that the gendarmerie should be organized on a sound basis. Shortly after our arrival at Erzeroum, with the help of the Vali Pasha and other competent persons, we formed a Commission in which, taking the new "Règlement du Gendarmerie" as a basis, discussed a scheme for the vilayet. The results of our discussion have been submitted to the Sublime Porte in the shape of a "Mazbata."

8. As it is forbidden that officers and privates of the police, when they go into the districts, should take without payment food and supplies, under the new regulations it has been arranged that when parties of police are quartered at or pass through a village, the price of provisions for themselves and horses shall be fixed by the Idareh Medjliss, and the rates shall be published and placarded in the different villages. We have written to the Vali asking him to give instructions to this effect to the local authorities.

9. We have applied to the Local Government for a register of the names, salaries, and dates of appointment of the Kaïmakams and other employés of the Government, also for reports as to their capabilities and reputation. If it be found necessary we shall make all kinds of investigations, both openly and secretly, so as to learn their fitness or otherwise for their posts.

10. We have formed a Special Commission, composed of exceptionally well informed Turkish subjects, to discuss the wants generally of the vilayet and the measures necessary to bring about a reformation of the administration. This Commission assembled on the $\frac{2nd}{14th}$ of this month under our own presidency. In conformity with our instructions we have commenced to discuss the question of reform.

11. A certain Mahmoud Agha, of Geghi, has committed oppressions, with reference to which we have had numerous complaints addressed to us. He has been brought before the local Tribunal, a copy of whose decision in the case is annexed. He has been sentenced to exile for three years.* There are many other cases of this kind, and, as we have stated in the 4th Article of this Report, a Special Commission is making the necessary inquiries and researches.

We have now reported on what we have already done; as to the future we shall send a Report at the end of each month.

(Signed by the Commissioners, Yusuf Pasha and Serkis Effendi.)

No. 299.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 18.)

(No. 24. Political.)

Erzeroum, July 31, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch of the 30th July to Her Majesty's Ambassador, with inclosure, containing news from Diarbekir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 299.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Erzeroum, July 30, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward extracts from a letter received this day from Mr. Thomas Boyajian, now Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, giving some interesting details as to the progress of the Reform Commissioners in the Diarbekir Vilayet.

In contradistinction to the favourable account given by Mr. Boyajian, I was shown yesterday by the Russian Consul-General a letter he had received of a few days' earlier date from the Russian Consul of Diarbekir, in which he stated that the Diarbekir Commissioners were doing little or nothing in the way of reform.

The details given by Mr. Boyajian of the assault on the village of Dely shows that no improvement has taken place in the government of the Midyad district since I reported on it in my despatches of the 22nd March and 9th May. Your Excellency will recollect that on bringing to notice of the Sublime Porte the facts mentioned in the last-quoted despatch a reply, of date the 12th July, was made by the Porte to your Excellency's representations stating that an inquiry was being made by the Second Imperial Commissary into the conduct of the Mutessarif of Mardin. It is most desirable in the interests of the country that the authority to depose him, applied for by Abedin Bey, be at once granted, if, indeed, orders have not been already sent to that effect.

I have received your Excellency's letter informing me that the Porte has at last agreed to recognize Mr. Boyajian as Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir. I have telegraphed the information to him, as well as to his Excellency the Governor of

* This does not agree with the statement in my despatch No. 22, Political. I will explain the matter by next mail.—H. T., August 2.

Diarbekir. From the latter I have received a telegraphic reply expressing his Excellency's gratification at the news.

As Mr. Boyajian has been recognized as Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, I am now at liberty to mention that the long English letter, copy of which I sent the Secretary of State in my despatch of the 17th July,* was written by that gentleman, in whose reports I place the utmost confidence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 299.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Major Trotter.

(Extract.)

Diarbekir, July 16, 1879.

SINCE my last, the Commissioner Abedin Bey has imprisoned a few more Kurdish Chiefs. He says he will send them with their families away from this vilayet to some distant place. I hear that he has already applied to Constantinople for their transportation, but whether this step will be approved of or not remains to be seen.

In one of my former letters I think I mentioned that, by order of the Mutessarif of Mardin, a village in the vicinity of Midiat, called Dely, was attacked, and some twelve or thirteen persons were killed (three of them being women), and as many more were wounded. This assault was made by a united force of three companies of regulars and about 100 Bashi-Bazouks, the latter being led by Osmani Tamo, Khalaf, Girjo, and Ismail of Midiat. The case being examined by Manas Effendi, some of the culprits have been sent here under detention. The other day Abedin Bey made a lengthened examination of two other persons, namely, Daood Agha and Emin Effendi, of Mardin, who were sent by the Mutessarif with the forces as Commissioners. I was then present, and what I gathered from the answers of these persons is, that the poor people of Dely were Yezidis; that the Mutessarif sent the forces, pretending that the inhabitants of Dely were in open revolt; that they were attacked without being invited to submit; and, finally, that there were some Mahommedans in the village who were carefully separated from the Yezidis, before the latter were attacked and plundered. This examination has also proved that Daood and Emin played a great part in the affair.

The examination brought to light a great many grave offences committed by the Mutessarif of Mardin in Midiat, Nisibin, and other places. Daood and Emin were sent to prison.

Abedin Bey has applied to Constantinople for permission to depose and examine the Mutessarif, but he has as yet received no answer. I hope he will soon be authorized to do so, for a person like Khoorshid Bey ought not to be permitted to continue in office a minute longer.

Manas Effendi is still in Mardin, and Mr. Andrus says he is doing well there.

The Committee for Gendarmerie and Police has been organized, his Excellency Abedin Bey presiding. This Committee meets daily from 3 to 6 (Turkish time), and examines the applicants, both Turks and Christians. Being myself on this Committee, I can testify to its credit that said Committee is doing its work honestly and fairly. The names of some officers in the present police force (zaptieh) were put down yesterday as being bad characters and incompetent. They will shortly be dismissed the force, thus ridding the people both in town and in the villages of these plagues.

The Sublime Porte has appropriated the revenue from the tithes for the payment of the gendarmerie. If they really pay this money, and send competent officers for the instruction and discipline of this force, I shall hope that this branch of the public service will be reformed in a degree.

Kiazim Pasha left for Deyrik a week ago. I do not know when he will be back.

Abedin Bey seems a just and impartial man, and if he had not unsurmountable difficulties and obstacles in his way, I believe he would do much for the benefit of the poor people in the way of ameliorating their wretched condition.

The Christian members of the Reform Committee are preparing a memorandum on the points of reforms to present to the Commissioners. I shall inform you of the result.

* Identical with No. 57 to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

Mr. Barnum, of Kharput, tells me that he will try to get all the information he can about the affairs in Dersim to send you.

No. 300.

Acting Vice-Consul Marengo to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 51.)
My Lord, *Trébizonde, le 8 Août*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la dépêche de votre Seigneurie No. 4 du 12 Juin dernier, contenant un Mémorandum de la Sublime Porte qui confirme la condamnation à mort, communiquée à votre Seigneurie par M. le Vice-Consul A. Biliotti dans sa dépêche No. 32 du 12 Mars, de sept des coupables dans l'attentat à Hodoortchoor.

L'arrestation de certains de leurs complices qui résident dans le Vilayet de Trébizonde n'a pu avoir lieu à cause des intrigues signalées par ce Vice-Consulat dans sa correspondance à ce sujet.

A la réception de la dépêche sus-mentionnée de votre Seigneurie, et à la suite d'instructions de M. le Vice-Consul Biliotti, j'ai signalé à Süri Pacha combien il serait à désirer que ces individus fussent arrêtés pour être jugés.

Son Excellence m'a informé hier que trois des complices viennent d'être arrêtés, et se trouvent actuellement dans les prisons de Trébizonde. Ce sont les nommés: le Coporal Hussein, de Cara-déré, son fils Ali, et son gendre Ahmed. Le premier ayant été blessé au bras au moment de son arrestation, se trouve dans ce moment à l'hôpital des prisons.

Son Excellence m'a en outre formellement promis de faire tout en son pouvoir pour arrêter les autres complices aussi, et comme il continue à faire preuve de la meilleure volonté et de la plus grande énergie, j'espère que les mesures qu'il adoptera ne seront pas sans résultat.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) B. MARENGO.

No. 301.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 398.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 11*, 1879.

M. BOERESCO, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who arrived at Berlin the day before yesterday, started for St. Petersburgh last night. It is understood that he will probably return to Berlin on Saturday next, and will afterwards proceed to Paris, London, and Rome.

By this evening's post I shall have the honour of forwarding to your Lordship a copy of the proposals connected with the question of emancipation which the Roumanian Minister has submitted to the German Government for their consideration.

These proposals were sent yesterday to the German Representative in London, and Baron von den Brincken has been requested to consult your Lordship as to their merits.

They are not considered at all satisfactory; but no decision will be taken by the German Government until they have ascertained the views of the other Cabinets interested in the question.

In the opinion of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, it is of great importance that M. Boeresco should be personally convinced of the complete harmony which exists between the several Powers; and his Excellency would have been glad, therefore, if the Roumanian Minister could have had an opportunity of appreciating the fact when he was received by your Lordship.

I am afraid, however, that your Lordship may have left London before M. Boeresco arrives in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 302.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 405.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 16*, 1879.

I HAD an opportunity of speaking to-day to the Minister for Foreign Affairs about the proposal which had been made to your Lordship, by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, that the Arab-Tabia question should be referred to the Servian Commission.

From what M. de Radowitz said, I gathered that a similar proposal had been made to the German Government by the Russian Representative here, and that the answer which had been returned to it was to the effect that Germany was not sufficiently interested in this question to justify her giving any very decided opinion on the point at issue, but would be quite ready to accept as satisfactory whatever decision the other Powers more immediately interested might conjointly take in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 303.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 408. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 16*, 1879.

WHEN the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated to me, during the conversation which I have the honour of reporting in my despatch No. 405 of to-day's date, that the German Government took no special interest in the Arab-Tabia question, and, consequently, did not feel inclined to give the Russian Representative here a decided opinion either for or against his proposal that it should be referred to the Servian Commission, I explained to his Excellency that your Lordship felt it might be difficult to agree to it because the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier was assigned by the Treaty of Berlin to the Bulgarian Commission, and would not be valid unless executed according to the Treaty.

M. de Radowitz appeared to be of opinion that, if all the Powers interested agreed to submit the question to the Servian Commission, the above difficulty might be overcome; but the German Government were, he said, just as much in favour of its being submitted to the Bulgarian Commission. Either course would be agreeable to them, and they would willingly give their assent to whichever of the two might be finally accepted by the other Powers more immediately interested in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 304.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Carlsbad, August 12*, 1879.

I TAKE the liberty to offer a few remarks relative to reforms in Turkey, a subject deeply occupying public attention at the present moment, and I respectfully beg your Lordship's indulgence for venturing to submit my humble opinion on a question of so much importance.

In any political changes that may be introduced into Turkey, the important fact always to be borne in mind is that, without taking into account minor subdivisions, there are two distinct races, or rather creeds, which are in perpetual antagonism with each other.

Religious feeling will always induce Mussulmans to look with suspicion on all improvements suggested by Europeans, who are supposed to favour Christians, and for the same reason Eastern Christians, who believe themselves to be much superior to their neighbours, will consider that all changes that are contemplated are intended for their exclusive benefit.

General reforms, whatever their nature may be, cannot, therefore, fully satisfy the opposing elements which constitute the population in Turkey, nor even will any change be regarded favourably by any of them.

The Mussulman will not accept as an advantage to him any innovation tending to alter the position which he has hitherto occupied by right of conquest, and nothing will satisfy the Christian unless he is allowed to have predominance. If proof be wanting for the correctness of this view of the case, it is only sufficient to look to Cyprus, where the Greeks find fault even with British administration.

Such being the case, if reforms were to be attempted at the present moment in Turkey, they might lead to disorders of a more regrettable character perhaps than those which such changes would be intended to remedy.

The introduction of institutions on the European system is barely possible in a country where the character and customs of the inhabitants so essentially differ from those of the population of civilized Europe. The revision of the laws now existing in Turkey would tend to awaken among Mussulmans ungrounded apprehensions of danger, while with Christians it would raise expectations impossible to realize, for the present at least, and what is equally probable is, that any such changes would increase the prevailing animosity between the followers of the two creeds, instead of being the means to induce them to live in greater harmony with each other.

It is well known how Mussulmans, when powerful, have dealt with Christians, and we have had recent examples of the use which the latter make of liberty and equality (principles so loudly invoked by them) when it falls to their lot to have power over Mussulmans.

Therefore, the only course to pursue at present would, perhaps, be, not to modify but to begin by enforcing the execution of the existing laws, which the Russians themselves, after their late experiment, pronounced to be well adapted to the social condition of Eastern populations.

I do not mean to say that there are not in them points which do not require alteration, and principles hitherto excluded, which should not be admitted; but, on the whole, the laws, such as they are, may be considered suitable for all present requirements.

Moreover, to what good purpose can tend these changes if they are to remain dead letters, like the regulations which are now in existence? When the latter shall be carried out all necessary modifications can then be gradually introduced; thus, at this somewhat critical moment, avoiding offence to the one party, and disappointment to the other, and preventing the great shock which might take place between the disparate elements constituting the Ottoman Empire, if the innovations were to bear at once on long-established principles.

Under these circumstances, in my humble opinion, the reforms to be attempted at present should be limited, not only to the execution of the existing regulations, but more especially to such points in them as can conciliate the sympathies of the populations in general.

It is beyond doubt that there is one point in respect of which Mussulmans and Christians fully agree, and would cordially co-operate; that common standing-point is the necessity of a radical reform in the present corrupt administration of all public affairs.

The opinion prevails in some quarters that should Eastern Christians be freely admitted into Government offices there would be a great improvement in the condition of the populations. This, however, is, I fear, an erroneous idea, for the evil complained of lies not with the individual, but with the system, which is rotten to the core, and taints all those who are brought in contact with it.

I do not hesitate to say that Mussulmans (I exclude from this term the half-civilized Turks) are far superior, so far as honesty and civic virtues are concerned, to Eastern Christians, and however much one may have admired the Mussulman, always so correct and honourable in private life, he gradually becomes what we know the Turkish official to be the moment he steps into a Government office. So long, therefore, as the system connected with the service is not altered, whether the functionaries are Mussulmans, Eastern Christians, or even Europeans, the abuses will be exactly the same, and all attempts to reform them will prove quite useless.

I have already stated, in the latter part of a Confidential despatch on administrative abuses in Turkey (dated, I believe, February 1876), that at present a Turkish functionary cannot be considered as a servant of the Government, for, to whatever rank he may belong, he is really the servant of the superior officer from whom he obtained his appointment. He can be removed at pleasure, and the honest and conscientious performance of his duties is no security whatever to him for the retention of his post; indeed, perhaps the reverse is nearer the truth, as the most shameful extortions and flagrant acts of injustice not only remain unpunished, but frequently lead to promotion. As a rule the official is underpaid, while his meagre salary is not even regularly issued to him; he therefore finds himself under the necessity of looking to his own interests, interwoven with which are those of his patron, for he has to refund himself the sums he has disbursed to obtain the post he occupies; to make provision for a fresh one, and to provide means for living while he is kept waiting for a new employment. Yet, in spite of these drawbacks, honest functionaries (very few, it must be admitted) are still to be found in Turkey. The wonder is that, under such a venal system, there are any exceptions to the rule.

With a view to remedy this disorder, not only can European institutions be adopted, but if they were not, no improvement can be expected to take place in Turkey.

It should be made imperative that all functionaries of the Porte, whether Mussulmans or Christians, be selected by the test of honesty and ability, and not, as at present, by favouritism, or for the price they are enabled to pay for a post. Moreover, measures should be taken to ensure that they are properly and regularly remunerated. Let the officials themselves be convinced (and this is the most important of all points) that they shall be irremovable, unless for misconduct; that they shall not fail to be promoted or punished according to their deserts, and that they shall be entitled to retire on a pension when they have served out a specified term of years, and, at no distant period, a body of as good public servants will be found in Turkey as in any part of Europe, and through them it will be possible to accomplish all reforms.

But the great difficulty lies in this improved system in the service being carried out; the very persons on whom the duty devolves are those who have an interest in prolonging the existing state of things.

The Sultan may have the best intentions, but the Pashas in the capital are not willing that their present extended powers should be curtailed—an inevitable result were the administration to be reformed—and the subordinate officials are not inclined to countenance any scheme tending to reduce to a limited number of posts, involving real work, the numerous sinecures in the enjoyment of which they now are.

The opinion and the wish of the populations in Turkey count for nothing, and the Ottoman Government, if left to themselves, will certainly continue to pursue the same course to which they have been so long accustomed. Admitting, even for a moment, that the Porte should decide in earnest to reform the present defective system, its efforts in this direction would most likely fail, owing to want of confidence, for it would be impossible for the populations, after past experiences, to believe in the sincerity of its intentions, while the officials themselves would place so little faith in the promises held out to them that they would not renounce their corrupt practices.

Under these circumstances, and with numerous elements each struggling for its existence or interest, Turkey remains, and will, I fear, continue to remain, helpless so long as she is abandoned to the men who now govern in the name of the Sultan. She can only be extricated from her present difficulties by a strong pressure from without being exercised on her rulers. Such is the opinion of every intelligent foreigner in the country, and it is also the conviction of the populations in Anatolia, who place all their hopes of regeneration in the intervention of Great Britain, but I must also say that they consider that simple means of persuasion will be of no avail whatever with the Porte for the reasons stated above.

Should it not be deemed advisable to resort to measures of an energetic character, it is indispensable that an early arrangement of some sort be devised to reform the present defective service, when all difficulties might be considered at an end, for, as already stated, all evils in Turkey can be traced to corrupt administration.

Without any pretension on my part to point out the means to be adopted for the purpose, I may be allowed to state that, judging from what takes place in Anatolia, an efficient relief might be obtained, so far as the provinces are concerned, if it were possible to create at Constantinople an entirely independent Court, which should be, if I may so style it, a Court of Inquiry as to official misconduct. But in order to be really independent, to inspire perfect confidence, and to present full security to the populations, as well as to the functionaries themselves (all of which are main points for succeeding to obtain a reformed class of officials), the Court in question should be under efficient foreign control.

Its powers could be so defined as to overcome the susceptibilities of the Porte to

admit foreigners in the general internal administration of the Empire. It might even be made to appear as an institution sought for by a large majority of the Mussulman population of Anatolia. Later on, the power of this Court might be extended as its usefulness became apparent. Its present special duty would be to watch the machinery of the service, to reward deserving men by promotion, to inflict merited punishment on offenders, and to weed out of the service all incapable and corrupt functionaries.

In order to attain this end, all provincial officials, from the Vali down to the lowest grade of employé, whether belonging to the administrative, financial, or judicial branches of the service, or to the police force, should be made amenable to this Court, whose decisions, as regards punishment and dismissal, as well as promotion and pension, should be thoroughly respected, and not be liable to reversion.

With the numerous staff of Consuls, who have been and are appointed all over Turkey, and who, in my opinion, will be found to answer as well as the proposed special functionaries to whose nomination the Porte objected, Her Majesty's Government will be kept minutely informed of all circumstances connected with the administration, and will be able to expose improper official conduct to the Court of Inquiry, and also bring to its notice those functionaries who have merited approbation.

Knowing, as I do by long experience, the salutary effect which dread of punishment and dismissal has on Turkish officials, and also the immense benefit that a well-disposed Vali can confer on a province, when he knows that he may reckon on being supported in his endeavours to do good, I entertain the most sanguine hopes that the foregoing, or any other measure tending to the same end, will produce unexpected beneficial results in a comparatively limited space of time, and finally render possible further reforms in Turkey.

But should the Porte not yield to the advice of friendly Powers to root out with as little delay as possible, and by the means best calculated by them to attain this end, the prevailing corruption in the administration, the disorders which now take place in the provinces may be expected to soon increase, and most likely to attain such a degree of intensity as, perhaps, to leave no other option to those same Powers but to employ measures of a coercitive character in order to prevent the collapse of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 305.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 16, 1879.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 56, the "Maritza" says:—

"Follow the signatures of the sixteen [?] officers, which we hold at the disposal of those whom it may concern."

Although names are known to General Vitalis and to myself from a similar letter which the officers endeavoured to get published in the Greek organ, the General applied for them officially to the Director of the Interior (*sic*), who, however, refused to act, and referred him to the Russian Chancellor. The latter now refuses to give the names to the General.

As the General has been superseded, the Governor-General will avail himself of the interval in order to hush up the matter; but if the Sultan's authority and dignity are to be maintained at all in this province, the offence is one which requires exemplary punishment by the Ottoman Government of its authors.

It may not be judicious to allow the matter to be settled by an act of severity on the part of the new Commander.

I therefore trust the Porte will insist on the Governor-General vindicating the Sultan's dignity and the maligned loyalty of the population by immediately dismissing the officers who wrote to both journals, and whose names he can obtain from the Greek editor if not from the "Maritza." The latter should likewise be punished for publishing such a document.

The Russian Consul-General and officers seem to be alarmed at the possible result of the Porte's action if taken.

No. 306.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 17, 1879.*

I HAVE communicated to M. Waddington your Lordship's No. 1073. He agrees that the Boeresco proposals are wholly unsatisfactory, and has informed German Ambassador and French Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin that he rejects them and keeps to those of Stourdza.

No. 307.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 17, 1879.*

HAS your Lordship any instructions for me on the subject of the reconsideration of Dobrudscha frontier near to Silistria? Other Commissioners are asking instructions.

No. 308.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 17, 1879.*

DELIMITATION Commission expect to terminate their work about the 20th instant.

Her Majesty's Commissioner requests to be informed whether he may return to England with his party on the completion of work of the Commission.

No. 309.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 705. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed by the French Consul at Mossul to M. Fournier, of which my French colleague has kindly permitted me to take a copy. It describes a movement alleged to be taking place amongst certain Kurdish tribes against the Turkish Ruler in Kurdistan, directed by a certain Sheikh Oubied Ullah, a powerful Kurdish Chief, and a notorious fanatic. This man has long been able to carry on his depredations, and to oppress and illtreat the settled populations, Mussulman as well as Christian, with impunity, in consequence of the facility with which he is able to pass from Turkish territory into Persian, and *vice versâ*, in order to escape from the authorities of either country when they have been so far provoked as to take real measures for his punishment. But unfortunately both the Turkish and Persian Governments are anxious to conciliate, and to obtain the support of a man of his influence amongst the Kurds, and are consequently, in turn, ready to make use of him and to shield and protect him. The only way to put an end to this state of things, and to the constant depredations of the Kurdish tribes inhabiting the Turco-Persian frontier, is for that frontier to be defined without further loss of time, and for Turkey and Persia to enter into a formal Convention to assist each other in keeping in check the Kurds and in preventing them from taking refuge across the border when pursued by the authorities and troops of either country. I have frequently urged upon the Turkish Ministers the importance of entering into an engagement of this nature, and they have not shown themselves opposed to it. I have also spoken to the Persian Ambassador on the subject, and he has assured me that his Government would not be unwilling to conclude such a Convention; but he seems to think that it will be first necessary to settle the frontier question. He alleges that this settlement has not hitherto been come to on account of the bad faith of the Porte. If your Lordship approves, I will continue to press this matter on the Turkish Govern-

ment, and a word from your Lordship at Tehran, through Her Majesty's Minister, might induce the Persian Government to enter the question favourably.

I have sent extracts from the French Consul's despatch confidentially to Major Trotter, and have instructed him to make inquiries and to report to me with regard to the statements that it contains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 309.

M. Liuffi to M. Fournier.

Vice-Consulat de France, Mossul, le 14 Juillet, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LA révolte des Kurdes, dont j'ai eu l'honneur de signaler le germe à votre Excellence par ma dépêche du 16 Juin dernier, a pris, ainsi que je l'avais prévu, un certain développement qui s'accroît tous les jours.

Chéik Oubéid Ullah, Chef de la rébellion, continue à appeler les Kurdes à défendre sa cause, qu'il dit être la leur; et le nombre des hommes qu'il a actuellement sous ses ordres compte déjà plusieurs milliers de combattants. Des lettres ont été adressées par lui à un grand nombre de Notables et Chefs de tribus, qui n'ont pas manqué de répondre à son appel, et tout le Caïmacamlik d'Amadiya, ainsi que d'autres localités, n'attendent qu'un signal pour se joindre ouvertement à lui. On m'assure qu'il a chassé tous les agents Turcs qui se trouvaient à Barvais Zir, et qu'il s'est déjà fait payer les impôts établis sur le sel et sur les troupeaux de ce mondirlik. Les Caïmacamliks d'Akra et de Debor sont également travaillés par lui, et ils ne manqueront pas de lui fournir leurs contingents. Il a écrit à un certain Abdallah Aga, Chef du Zibar, pour l'engager, chaudement, à tâcher de s'emparer de la Forteresse d'Amadiya, qui compte près de 4,000 habitants, et dont il voudrait faire la capitale de son Gouvernement.

Il dit à qui veut l'entendre qu'il désire en finir avec les Turcs, et qu'il demande à être chargé du gouvernement des Kurdes, moyennant une somme annuelle, qu'il payerait à la Porte, dont il reconnaîtrait la suzeraineté. Il s'engage, en outre, vis-à-vis des sujets, à abolir les divers impôts dont le pays est chargé, pour n'exiger qu'un impôt annuel de 20 piastres (4 fr. 50 c.) par famille, et 1 piastre par chaque tête de moutons, au lieu de 2½ piastres, que perçoit le Gouvernement Ottoman.

Votre Excellence voit par ce qui précède que la révolte prend de jour en jour une importance plus grande, et qu'elle s'étend sensiblement de notre côté, ce qui forcera probablement notre Gouverneur-Général à quitter Kerkouk pour venir à Mossul.

La race Kurde est, sans contredit, une vilaine race; mais elle a cependant, dans les circonstances actuelles, contre le Gouvernement du Sultan des griefs justes et valables dont elle se plaint avec raison. Ces griefs sont fondés sur les injustices et les avanies de tout genre des agents Ottomans, qui n'étant soumis dans l'intérieur d'un pays lointain à aucune espèce de contrôle ni de surveillance, se livrent à un arbitraire passionné et coupable qui finit par aigrir les administrés, en leur faisant détester leur Gouvernement. C'est, malheureusement, la cause première, sinon unique, qui a presque toujours motivé en Turquie toutes les insurrections de ce genre.

Un exemple, sur cent, que je tiens de source certaine, et qui s'est passé peu de temps avant mon arrivée ici, fera connaître à votre Excellence jusqu'à quel point est poussée l'oppression des Turcs sur les gens de la campagne. Une compagnie de troupes régulières avait été envoyée dans une partie de la montagne, pour réprimer les désordres commis par une tribu Kurde. A son arrivée sur les lieux, les malfaiteurs ont pris la fuite; mais la troupe, qui ne se soucient pas de les poursuivre, n'a rien trouvé de mieux à faire que de tomber sur les villages mêmes qu'elle était venu protéger, pour les piller et enlever les femmes des villageois. Vingt-quatre jeunes filles ont été violées dans une seule nuit, et l'officier qui était un Chef de bataillon, a eu pour sa part deux filles.

Cette conduite de la part de ce Chef d'expédition est restée complétement impunie, pour la seule raison que les victimes étaient de la même race que la tribu malfaitrice qui devait être châtiée, c'est-à-dire qu'ils étaient Kurdes.

Je demande à votre Excellence la permission de lui soumettre certaines considérations de nature à lui donner une idée de la force matérielle et morale du Chef de l'insurrection Kurde.

Chéik Oubéid-Ullah dispose, tant sur le territoire Ottoman que sur le territoire

Persan, de vastes propriétés qui non-seulement lui permettent de soutenir de grandes défenses, attendu qu'il est extrêmement riche—mais qui lui laissent, à son gré, entre les deux Empires, le choix du séjour et par conséquent de la nationalité. Sur la frontière Persane il a une localité entière, contenant, m'assure-t-on, une quinzaine de villages, qui avait été donnée à sa famille par le Shah. Cette position doit nécessairement rendre le Chéik d'autant plus fort et plus hardi dans son entreprise que le jour où il viendrait à être battu par les troupes Turques, il n'aurait qu'à passer dans le territoire Persan, où il est sûr de trouver un refuge contre les poursuites de ses ennemis.

Sa puissance au point de vue morale est incomparablement plus forte; Oubéid-Ullah passe aux yeux des Musulmans de Mossul même pour un Chéik respectable et vénérable, mais pour les Kurdes il est presqu'une divinité. Ses partisans lui rendent en effet des honneurs divins. Quand ils le voient, même de loin, ils s'empressent, à quelque classe qu'ils appartiennent, de descendre de leurs chevaux et, les mains croisées, la tête inclinée, et les yeux baissés, ils vont à sa rencontre en lui faisant des révérences continuelles. Une fois en sa présence ils font, pour dernier hommage, une grande révérence jusqu'à terre, sans proférer un seul mot; et ce n'est que lorsqu'il adresse lui-même la parole à l'un d'eux, que celui-ci peut lui parler, mais sans le regarder en face. Le moindre désir, ou le moindre signe de la part de ce moderne vieux de la montagne est un ordre suprême pour les siens, qui se jetteraient, paraît-il, au feu pour lui être agréable.

Les Musulmans du pays et ceux de notre ville même voient non-seulement avec indifférence, mais avec une satisfaction secrète le progrès que fait ce Chef d'insurrection.

Dans la position exceptionnelle qui lui est faite, cet homme peut oser beaucoup; et si la Porte ne se presse pas de prendre des mesures efficaces pour arrêter le mal, cette affaire pourra lui créer des tracas sérieux et l'obliger, plus tard, à faire un déploiement de forces qui lui coûteront beaucoup d'hommes et d'argent, pour en venir à bout avec les rebelles.

Les mesures prises pour éteindre la révolte paraissent tout-à-fait insuffisantes; 400 ou 500 soldats ont été dirigés contre les rebelles; mais il paraît que, vue la grande infériorité de leur nombre, ils n'ont pas pu faire grand'chose jusqu'à présent. On dit d'ailleurs que Feizi Pacha recevra probablement un renfort qu'il a demandé à Bagdad.

Daignez, &c.
(Signé) N. LIUFFI.

P.S.—Edhém Pacha, Général de Brigade, Commandant le place de Mossul, est parti hier soir avec 160 soldats et deux petits canons pour Amadiya. Sa mission pour le moment est de défendre cette forteresse contre les attaques des Kurdes.

N. L.

No. 310.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 708. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 8, 1879.

My Lord,

M. FOURNIER has been good enough to communicate to me two despatches addressed to him by the French Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, from which I have the honour to inclose extracts. My French colleague is persuaded that Russian intrigues are actively at work to foment a rising amongst the Armenians, and that the Russian authorities are making military preparations on the frontier of the Vilayet of Erzeroum to enable them to interfere, should the contemplated movement take place. Major Trotter has called your Lordship's attention in his despatches to the marked change which has recently taken place in the attitude and language of the Armenians, leading to the belief that they are encouraged and supported from a powerful source in their opposition to the authority of the Porte; but he has not stated that Russia is making any unwonted military preparations on the frontier.

I shall communicate to him, confidentially, the substance of the French Consul's despatches to M. Fournier, and draw his attention to the statements that they contain on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 310.

M. Castagne to M. Fournier.

(Extrait.) *Erzeroum, le 19 Juillet*, 1879.

DES troubles qui auraient pu devenir assez graves, sans l'intervention immédiate du Vali et de la force armée, ont éclaté à Erzeroum, Lundi dernier, vers 2 heures de l'après-midi, entre les Arméniens et les Persans. Les troubles ont pris naissance chez un boulanger Persan à propos d'une vente de pains. Les désordres se sont prolongés jusqu'au coucher du soleil, sans que personne heureusement ait été tué ni même gravement blessé.

Gràces aux mesures énergiques prises par l'autorité, la tranquillité publique semble être rétablie; des fortes patrouilles à pied et à cheval circulent pour le bon ordre, jour et nuit, dans la ville. Les troupes ont reçu l'ordre, en cas d'un nouveau soulèvement, à faire usage de leurs armes.

Je doute que les intrigues Russes soient étrangères à ce qui vient de se passer; car chose curieuse à noter, depuis Samedi le bruit circulait en ville que des troubles allaient éclater. De plus, un peu avant l'émeute, les sœurs de St. Joseph recevaient un avis les invitant à se renfermer chez elles. Le Gouverneur-Général, avec lequel je me suis longuement entretenu le lendemain de ces faits, partage entièrement ma manière de penser à ce sujet.

Inclosure 2 in No. 310.

M. Castagné to M. Fournier.

(Extrait.) *Erzeroum, le 26 Juillet*, 1879.

L'ÉVÊQUE Grégorien, à cheval, escorté d'une soixantaine d'individus à droite et à gauche de son cheval, et d'une trentaine d'autres venant derrière, tous armés de "revolvers" (et de camas?), accompagné de M. Cansarazan, officier Russe, d'origine Arménienne, nommé récemment Vice-Consul de Van, de Daniel Effendi, et de deux autres notables de la nation, se sont rendus, le Lundi, 14 Juillet, vers les 2 heures du matin, chez M. Arsinpar Tourmadji, où demeure Serkis Effendi Agabeyan, membre de la Commission des Réformes, et où un Conseil a été tenu. Le même jour, à 2 heures du soir, l'émeute, dont j'ai eu l'honneur d'entretenir votre Excellence par ma lettre en date du 19 Juillet, a éclaté.

Je garantis à votre Excellence, M. l'Ambassadeur, l'exactitude de ces renseignements; je les tiens, à titre confidentiel, d'une source certaine.

Le lendemain, Mardi, 15 Juillet, le même Arménien qui a provoqué la querelle avec le boulanger Persan a cherché à soulever une dispute semblable au bazar avec un boulanger Turc. La patrouille est survenue, et le Colonel de la gendarmerie qui était avec [*sic*], a reconnu l'individu de la veille. Cet Arménien a été arrêté, mis en prison, et relâché quelques heures plus tard.

La tranquillité publique n'a pas été de nouveau troublée, mais les esprits sont fortement travaillés et des désordres sont à craindre.

Il est de notoriété publique que les Arméniens n'ont commencé à se remuer que depuis l'arrivée de la Commission des Réformes.

On parle, M. l'Ambassadeur, que dans le Soghanly Asarikamireho, distant de Erzeroum de dix-huit heures, le Gouvernement concentre beaucoup de troupes. Une grande quantité de fusils, 10,000 environ, ont été expédiés récemment dans cette localité. Ces fusils sont, dit-on, destinés pour Erzeroum.

M. Cansarazan, qui devait partir aujourd'hui pour Van, a remis son départ à plus tard.

No. 311.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 709. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 8, 1879.

COUNT ZICHY dined with the Sultan on Wednesday last. He has been good enough to communicate to me, very confidentially, what passed on the occasion. His Majesty, on retiring to his sitting room after dinner, placed Count Zichy under the portrait of the Queen. He said, laughing, that he had done so purposely, to show that it was his earnest desire that England, Austria, and Turkey should be united, and in the most friendly relations. After some conversation on general subjects, His Majesty asked Count Zichy what was the policy of his Government with regard to the Greek question. My colleague answered that although not authorized by Count Andrassy to speak on this subject, he might state to His Majesty that he had taken the greatest trouble to examine the question in all its details. He had seen many Albanians, who had called upon him, and he had sought to obtain from them the most complete and impartial information with respect to the state of things in Albania. He had reported fully on the subject to Count Andrassy, but had not yet received any instructions as to the course he was to pursue. He had only been directed to sign the identic note inviting the Porte to name its Commissioners. He gathered from this fact that his Government was still studying the question, and would act in it with due regard to all interests concerned. Count Zichy told me that he added, pointing to the Queen's portrait and referring to the Sultan's observations when he seated him under it, that His Majesty might rest assured that whatever policy Count Andrassy might follow, it would be in perfect accord with that of Her Majesty's Government, with whom Austro-Hungary had all along maintained the most entire and cordial understanding.

His Majesty expressed himself satisfied with this reply, and declared that it was his earnest hope and wish that the Greek question should be peacefully settled without delay, and in a manner to satisfy the interests of all parties concerned.

The Sultan then explained to Count Zichy why he had rejected the Secret Article of the Convention. He maintained that it was too limited in its operation. He would be ready, His Majesty said, to enter into an alliance with Austria if the Austro-Hungarian Government were willing to do so.

Count Zichy replied that he could not take upon himself to offer an opinion upon so grave a subject, but that he would not fail to submit His Majesty's suggestion to the Emperor.

If such matters were discussed, he observed, it was absolutely necessary that the greatest secrecy should be maintained. This had not been the case with the Secret Article to the Convention, and the fact of its having been betrayed was the more grave, as the Russians had not yet evacuated the territories of His Majesty, and they might have availed themselves of the pretext of an understanding between Turkey and Austro-Hungary to propose a similar alliance against them to the Servians and Montenegrins.

Count Zichy tells me that many things that dropped from the Sultan convinced him that His Majesty has a deep-rooted hatred and distrust of Russia. I have been led to form the same opinion.

The Sultan seems to have been very kind and cordial in his reception of Count Zichy, who has thanked me warmly for having been the means of procuring him the opportunity of seeing His Majesty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 312.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 712.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 9, 1879.

I HAVE thought it desirable to communicate to the Porte Major Trotter's despatch to me No. 60 of the 25th ultimo, copy of which was transmitted to your Lordship, and to accompany it by a *note verbale*, copy of which I beg to inclose. I have omitted some paragraphs in it, which might compromise the Commissioners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 312.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, August 8, 1879.

THE Sublime Porte, desirous of ameliorating the condition of His Imperial Majesty's subjects in the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Van, and of redressing their grievances, sent recently to Erzeroum a Commission, which was charged with the duty of ascertaining the nature of those grievances, especially as regards the Christians, of devising measures for the protection and better government of the populations, and of recommending and putting into execution the reforms necessary for the improvement of the Administration. Her Majesty's Government learnt with much satisfaction that the Sublime Porte had taken this step. They had reasonable hopes that the presence of the Commission would be productive of substantial benefits to the inhabitants of the provinces in question, and would secure to them those rights and that protection to which they are entitled, and which the Sublime Porte has so frequently and so emphatically promised Her Majesty's Government to extend to them.

Her Majesty's Ambassador regrets to have to state that these hopes have hitherto been to a certain extent disappointed. The accompanying Report from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum shows that although the Commissioners sent by the Sublime Porte were at first disposed to execute the mission confided to them with energy and loyalty, the difficulties and obstructions which have been placed in their way, the opposition they have received from the local authorities, the want of support from Constantinople, and the limited nature of their powers, have ended by disheartening them, and there is unfortunately reason to fear that they will be unable to carry out the benevolent intentions of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and improve the condition of his Christian subjects.

Her Majesty's Ambassador desires to call the serious attention of the Sublime Porte to Major Trotter's Report, and to impress upon it the great importance of not confining itself to mere inquiries, through Commissioners who have no power to take effective measures to carry out their recommendations. Such inquiries lead to no good result, but, on the contrary, tend to increase the ill-feeling of the Mussulman population towards the Christians, and to render their condition still more intolerable. What is required for their protection, and for the just and equal treatment of the races and creeds, is the introduction and faithful execution, without delay, of those reforms which the Sublime Porte has pledged itself to Her Majesty's Government to introduce into the Asiatic dominions of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 313.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 713. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, August 10, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Austro-Hungarian Government insisted, some time ago, upon the removal from Novi-Bazar of the Mufti of Tashlidjeh, a person of great influence in that district and in Bosnia, who was accused of stirring up the Mussulmans against the Austrians. The Mufti was brought to Constantinople, and having, a short time after, been sent for to the Palace by the Sultan, Count Zichy, I believe, asked Hairredin Pasha for explanations on the subject.

When I was with His Majesty yesterday he begged me to tell Count Zichy that his reception of the Mufti had no political signification whatever, and that he gave his word of honour that this person was not used by him for any political purpose, or as a means of communication with the Mussulmans of Bosnia or Novi-Bazar, or for any similar object. He was a man who enjoyed a considerable reputation in his own country, and had acted what he believed to be the part of a patriot in opposing its occupation by Austrian troops. This occupation had now been accomplished, and His Majesty hoped that Count Zichy and the Austro-Hungarian Government would forget the past and let bygones be bygones.

I gave the Sultan's message to my Austrian colleague, who expressed himself well satisfied with His Majesty's assurances, which he considered very important, and said that he would inform Count Andrassy of it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 314.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 715.)

Therapia, August 10, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship instructed me, in your telegram No. 207 of the 4th instant, to support Count Zichy in the representations that he had been directed to make to the Porte with reference to the condition of the Christians of Prisrend. My colleague, whilst thanking me for offering to support him, informed me that he was quite satisfied with the measures now taken by the Porte to protect the Catholic population of that district. Nevertheless, I took an opportunity to acquaint Safvet Pasha with the instructions that I had received from your Lordship on the subject, and to urge him to adopt such steps as might be necessary for the protection of the Christians.

Count Zichy expressed much satisfaction at learning that your Lordship had sent Mr. St. John to Prisrend. He would, his Excellency thought, be very useful in acting with the Austro-Hungarian Consul, who was somewhat of an alarmist and given to exaggerate events.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 315.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 716.)

Therapia, August 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram which I addressed purposely *en clair* to Mr. Consul Henderson respecting the treatment of the Zeitoun prisoners, together with a copy of that gentleman's reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 315.

Sir A. H. Layard to Consul Henderson.

Therapia, August 8, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

ARE the Zeitoun prisoners still as barbarously and inhumanly treated as they were according to your last accounts, or has any change for the better been made in their treatment?

Inclosure 2 in No. 315.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, August 9, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

GHALIB PASHA has sent repeated orders to Acting Governor of Marash to ameliorate treatment of prisoners, but the latter has chosen to disobey these orders.

To-morrow Mukhtar Bey leaves for Marash on special mission, with full powers from Vali to put an end to this state of affairs.

No. 316.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 717.)

Therapia, August 11, 1879.

My Lord,

COLONEL CLARKE having urgently represented to me the expediency of prevailing upon the Porte not to permit the departure of the Turkish Commissioner

for the delimitation of the new Russian frontier in Armenia until certain questions in dispute relating to it had been settled at Constantinople, I begged him to give me his reasons in writing, which I could submit to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. He accordingly addressed me the letter, copy of which he inclosed in his despatch to your Lordship No. 80 of the 10th instant, and which I have communicated to Safvet Pasha.

Colonel Clarke further states to me that, in his opinion, "the Turks would be quite justified in refusing to let their Commissioner commence delimitation, on the grounds that the project of frontier is not agreed upon. This would force the Russians to show cause why they rejected the Turkish revised project. Then, should it appear that the refusal of Russia is an arbitrary attempt to avoid carrying out the Treaty in its integrity, Turkey would appear justified in calling the attention of the Signatory Powers to the mode in which their decrees were being set at defiance. But knowing how utterly reckless in their statements are the Russians, it is necessary to have something more to go upon than General Zelenoi's verbal statement. Hence it will be necessary for the Turks to obtain the grounds of the Russian refusal to discuss the question in writing. It would be well if Safvet Pasha, before returning an answer to the grounds of the refusal, communicated with your Excellency."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 317.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 720.)

Therapia, August 11, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further Report which I have received from Mr. Consul Henderson and Lieutenant Chermside relative to the proceedings of the Aleppo Commission.

I have given extracts from this Report to Said Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 317.

Lieutenant Chermside and Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, July 24, 1879.

Sir,

WE have the honour to inform your Excellency that the joint Report we were preparing has been considerably anticipated by the long telegram we thought it right to dispatch, a copy of which we inclose herewith.

The daily increasing disturbances throughout the vilayet; the unsatisfactory position of its Vali, not only as regards the restriction placed upon his powers by the presence of the Commission, but owing to the repeated demands made on him by the Finance Minister for cash, when the chaotic anarchial condition of his province is already in a great measure due to the fact that a Government cannot be carried on without funds; the growing disrepute of the Commission (for what was known to us confidentially as to the control exercised by the Porte is now generally known); and the apathy, indifference, and hopelessness of the Deputies of the Local Assembly, who made no secret of their disbelief in the genuineness of their word, and who are beginning to clamour to be allowed to return to their homes, decided us to anticipate the long delay of the post by a telegram.

The Local Assembly declares that it has no power of finance; that, practically, its discussions are not free; that such and such a thing cannot be discussed, as it affects the Porte; other matters reflect on the existing laws; in fine, that it is assisting at a farce.

Were the dispositions of the Commissions other than they now are, restricted as is their action, this need hardly be the case; the Assembly might be a local consulting Committee, as was originally intended; the apathy and discouragement which their treatment, however, has produced on them, and their avowed opinions as to the

futility of their mission, combined with the Oriental want of perseverance in an uphill struggle, have been reflected on to those, the direction and surveillance of whose labours is in their hands, and have brought all matters to almost a standstill.

Gendarmerie and Justice questions have been referred back to Constantinople. The inquiries by two Courts into the accusations against functionaries proceeds very slowly, if at all.

The Christian Commissioner, much concerned at the attacks on him by the Armenian press, and hopeless of success while affairs remain here *in statu quo*, has informed us, most confidentially, that he is sending his resignation by this post. We have also heard in the strictest confidence that Ghalib Pasha's resignation has been some days in the hands of the Porte, on the plea of ill-health, but for fear it should appear to be a concerted thing and not genuine we were not told of it.

Mazhar Pasha also told us (21st July) that he is anxious to go, as he looks on his position as undignified and his mission as futile.

If no change be made we may therefore expect from the Commissioners a mere perfunctory discharge of their duties. Both seem to have lost heart, to have no longer a union of interests, and to think more of the political effect of the mission, its influence on personal interests, and so on, than the general real result in the country.

As to any idea, hope, or evidence of endeavour still really to strive for such moderate results as would yet guarantee a certain measure of success, and form a foundation for further reform, there is not a vestige of such, and this very fact, almost a foregone conclusion in the case of Orientals, is of course one of the inherent causes of the general failure that it seems impossible not to anticipate.

It is scarcely too much or premature to say that we have seen the almost hopeless difficulty of carrying out any considerable administrative reform through Turkish officials again exemplified.

The probable action of the Commission will, we much fear, be confined to the elaboration of a programme of reforms which might have been dictated from Constantinople for all vilayets, after which one at least of the Commissioners hopes to be able to effect his return to Constantinople ("en ménageant sa démission") without incurring the resentment of the Porte.

As to the other Commissioner, since a time when at Marash he was anxious to elicit from Lieutenant Chermside declarations and assurances as to the future action of our Government, which it was quite beyond his power to give, and by which he would presumably have been guided more or less, he has practically embraced the views of what he judges to be the prevailing current at Constantinople, viz., the old Turkish party, with its fanaticism, obstructions, and dread of foreign interference, and growth of foreign influence and its chronic resentment and evasion of all counsels emanating from the Western Powers.

Although Mazhar Pasha's principal shortcomings and errors are more those of omission than commission, in the presence of the fanatic spirit daily becoming more rife throughout the country, and other indications, which we can only ascribe to the presence of the Commission, and the reaction due to the disappointed expectancy of one section of the population and the satisfaction thereat of the other, the miscarriage of such an important mission, and the general result of its non-success, cannot fail to entail a grave moral responsibility on the man to whom its principal direction was intrusted, and it is impossible to avoid believing that a firmer man, and one resolved to be guided more by his own convictions, would, if they were such as he professed, have found means to pursue a course of action more in accordance with such convictions.

His action, further, is indeed such as if not exactly to approve, at any rate, in ignoring many of the most glaring illegalities and irregularities of the late Vali, not to condemn his conduct, and this course lends colour to the sinister reports of growing frequency as to the interested nature of his motives, while the widespread scandal caused by his habits of life has as yet, unfortunately, been unredeemed by indications of energy, fixity of purpose, or any tangible results or real guarantees in the matter of reform.

The Commission, often called the "English Commission," is looked upon in the country as doomed, and the revival of the dormant Moslem fanaticism on the one hand is clear evidence of this, while on the other the feelings of the Christians, uneducated and ignorant, childish and impulsive as they are towards England, are undergoing a marked change, transient it may be, and not likely to be deep-rooted or

incapable of being at any moment readily changed, but fostered rather than discouraged by their shallow and childish petulant ecclesiastics.

It is because of this almost certainty of failure at a time when not only intelligent natives, but Europeans in different parts of the district who have been long resident in it, concur in the statement that never have the reins of Government been looser or affairs more hopeless throughout the administration, that we think it our duty to write at the present juncture instead of wailing under the conviction that whatever they may be theoretically, while the attributes and powers of the Commission remain as they are any desirable results will be almost infinitesimal.

The reception by the Porte of the propositions of the Commission concerning the Tribunals and the gendarmerie your Excellency is already aware of.

The lamentable consequences that a total failure of this Commission will have on the population whose eyes for a year past have been eagerly turned towards England, the increased animosity that it would beget between the two principal sections of the population, and the vast check it would give to all aspirations of progress and reform, and the importance with which we are aware the introduction of some elementary reforms is viewed by Her Majesty's Government, induce us to offer the following remarks and suggestions as to measures which might, in our humble opinion, somewhat obviate the result we so much fear:

1. Some executive and power of initiative must be left by the Porte in the hands of the Commission, and whether the programme they elaborate in detail be accepted in part or in entirety the execution of such must be superintended by able and special functionaries.

2. The Christian Commissioner expressed to one of us many weeks ago a wish to see and confer with your Excellency, a request in the matter of which at the time it did not seem desirable to take any notice. However visionary and wanting in practical knowledge this official has great intelligence, and now thoroughly acquainted with details as to the very numerous sections of the population, their influence, aspirations, conditions, &c., with the almost endless vexed questions which affect the general situation, and, above all, with the terrible venality, the parody of justice, and the ignorance and incapacity which characterize the Turkish officials in this district, and could in conversation explain far better than can be done on paper the absolute requirements of the case, and give details as he has to us in confidence of that paralyzing influence of the Central Government to which so much of the want of success seems due.

He is, however, now so discouraged that he asserts that he fears little good would come of such an interview, additional powers and instructions from the Porte to share subsequently the fate of the former, and a return here "to enact the same comedy" ("jouer la même comédie").

3. Some money must be at the disposal of the Commission or the Sub-Commission. While the Porte is nominally urging reforms, the continuous transmission of demands for cash and of preference "havales" or mortgages on the revenues of the province, whose finances are already in a very disorganized state, render it impossible to arrange or even to collect the modest existing budget of the vilayet, without increasing which, indeed, or adding a special grant for the execution of the reforms it will be impossible to carry them out.

4. The position of the Vali is an anomalous one, and it is impossible that under existing arrangements all should work smoothly. Not only is our opinion of Ghalib Pasha far higher than that of Mazhar Pasha, but as the actual executive and mechanism of the Administration is in his hands, we are of opinion that the accepted programme of reforms would be better carried out by him with the aid of special functionaries, at any rate subordinate to him, though the reports, requests, &c., might be all referable to the Porte.

Ghalib is more of a statesman than Mazhar. Aware of the capricious and changeable nature of the Central Government, and its precarious tenure of power, he holds himself aloof from party. He is well inclined to the English, and would, if assured of support, seem a far better and more trustworthy agent than Mazhar, the more so if he felt convinced that action counter to the pledges of the Porte to Her Majesty's Government would not be tolerated.

He has a very high opinion of Nourrian Effendi, whose assistance to him would be of great value. It might, however, be found difficult to give Nourrian Effendi a post he would accept—such a post as Christian Sub-Governor—an arrangement that as in the case of Inspectors of Justice might seem, at any rate provisionally, a suggestion worthy of consideration, he would not, we believe, accept.

While submitting the above remarks for your Excellency's consideration, as the hopelessness of the population and the lamentable state of affairs we have to record may seem to demand some expression of opinion from us as to any possible remedies, so great seems the improbability of carrying out any real reform work with the ordinary Turkish officials, that we cannot profess ourselves very sanguine as to any but very partial results, even were the above suggestions to be adopted.

We have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.
HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 318.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 723.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 12, 1879.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Palgrave's despatches No. 144 of the 26th ultimo, and No. 153 of the 4th instant, referring to complaints alleged to have been made by the Prince of Bulgaria as to His Highness' reception by the Sultan when he passed through Constantinople, and as to the selection of Pertef Effendi as bearer of His Highness' berat, I am bound to say that when His Highness visited His Majesty, I was not aware that the manner in which he had been received had caused him any dissatisfaction or mortification. On the contrary, as I wrote to your Lordship at the time, I understood that the interview had passed off very well, and that His Majesty and the Prince were mutually pleased with its result.

I have spoken to Safvet Pasha with respect to the annoyance alleged to have been expressed by the Prince at the way in which he was treated on his arrival and at the Palace. His Highness assures me that precisely the same ceremonial was observed on this occasion as when the Princes of Servia and Roumania visited their Suzerain, and this statement has been confirmed from other quarters.

The Prince complains that the Ottoman subordinates were in absolute déshabille. It must be remembered that the present Sultan lives in the most simple manner. At the public ceremonies which I have witnessed, His Majesty has worn no other costume than a simple military great coat; I have scarcely ever seen him with an Order. His servants have no livery, but wear the commonest civilian dress, and even at State dinners, at which I have been present, his Ministers have not put on their full uniform.

His Highness appears further to have complained to Mr. Palgrave that, whilst his visit to Constantinople was limited by the Porte to a few hours, his presence on the Bosphorus was made an occasion of police surveillance and unfriendly precautions. It is quite true that precautions were taken, and they proved to be necessary, as the Bulgarians in Constantinople, who are numerous, had made preparations for a demonstration which might have led to serious disturbances, had it not been prevented. Hairedin Pasha, who is by no means an alarmist, assured me that had the Prince landed, and remained on shore some days, as he had at first intended, his presence in the capital might have led to grave consequences.

The Sultan himself has spoken to me in the most friendly terms of the Prince, who appears to have made a very favourable impression upon His Majesty, as well as upon his Ministers, and has expressed a hope to me that His Highness will pay him a long visit when the public excitement caused by the war has calmed down, and his presence here would not be made the occasion of demonstrations which might disturb the public peace.

As regards the appointment of Pertef Effendi to be the bearer of the Prince's berat, I may observe that he was the Turkish Commissioner in Bulgaria, and that an official of not superior rank, Ali Fuad Bey, the Sultan's private Secretary, has been sent to Egypt with the Firman for Tewfik Pasha.

I have entered into these explanations, as I fear that intrigues have been at work to cause a false impression upon the Prince's mind. I was aware that such was the case when His Highness passed through Constantinople. It would be greatly to be regretted if His Highness were to entertain any unfounded feelings of annoyance and resentment against the Sultan, which might hereafter lead to a misunderstanding between them, and encourage a spirit of hostility in the Principality against the Suzerain Power. There are so many evident inaccuracies in the statement attributed

to Prince Alexander that I am at a loss to understand the matter. I will, however, make further inquiries on the subject of his reception here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 319.

Sir A. H. Layard to the the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 724. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 12, 1879.

WHEN I saw the Sultan last Saturday, His Majesty told me that he was most anxious to come to some speedy settlement of the financial embarrassments under which Turkey was labouring, and which acted as a check upon all his endeavours to introduce reforms and to improve the condition of the country. He had been thinking, His Majesty said, very seriously over the matter, and had formed some ideas with respect to it upon which he would wish to have my advice. He begged me, therefore, to send Sir A. Sandison to him on the following day, in order that he might communicate them to him to be placed before me. Sir Alfred accordingly waited upon His Majesty yesterday, and has given me a Memorandum of what passed on the occasion, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy. I shall probably have an opportunity of speaking with His Majesty about his financial scheme when I dine with him to-day. His proposal of appointing Europeans (Englishmen) as Under-Secretaries in the Departments of Finance and of the Customs is one worthy of serious consideration. I will write further to your Lordship on this subject after I have had an opportunity of learning more fully His Majesty's views with regard to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Memorandum by Sir A. Sandison.

(Confidential.)

MUNIR BEY communicated to me to-day, by command, for your Excellency's information, the following scheme for a new loan, which I wrote down in French:—

"*Projet de Réformes Financières sur les bases d'un Emprunt avantageux au Trésor Impérial.*

"Nomination dans chacun des Départements de Finance et de Douanes d'un Mutishar étranger, capable, honnête, et soumis aux conditions dans lesquelles Hobart et Baker Pachas ont été admis au service de l'Empire.

"Conclusion d'un emprunt à 3 ou 4 pour cent ayant pour garantie les revenus de l'Ile de Chypre.

"Le chiffre de l'emprunt sera déterminé d'un commun accord avec les Mustishars et après que le nombre de troupes à licencier ainsi que le chiffre de la dette flottante et le montant des dépenses nécessaires pour les réformes auront été connues.

"Dans le cas où les revenus d'Ile de Chypre ne suffiraient pas aux intérêts de l'emprunt projeté, on pourrait parfaire le reste au moyen d'autres revenus que le Gouvernement aura à sa disposition; par suite du paiement de toutes ses dettes, les intérêts des détenteurs d'anciens emprunts Ottomans seront également pris en sérieuse considération à la suite de cette opération, puisque le Gouvernement sera dégagé des obligations qui ne lui permettent pas aujourd'hui de distraire la moindre somme de son budget."

In the conversation which followed on the subject, I reminded him of the objections urged against the attempts made on previous occasions to raise money on the security of the Cyprus revenue, which, like many other revenues of the Empire, had already been mortgaged in favour of the existing loans. There was, therefore, little chance, I said, of the one now proposed meeting with any success in the absence of some previous arrangement with the foreign bondholders, by which they might be induced to consent to the hypothecation of the Cyprus revenues in favour of the contemplated new loan.

Munir Bey, who gave me the impression of expressing the Sultan's views in the matter, replied that the time had now come for the bondholders to consider the expediency of relieving, in some measure, the Government from its helpless position, from which they themselves derived no benefit whatever, and only added to its financial embarrassments by refusing it the means of improving the situation.

As stated in the scheme, the object in raising the new loan is to pay off the floating debt, contracted since the beginning of the war, and to apply the residue to the execution of the reforms.

By settling the floating debt, and thereby liberating the general customs revenues, now mortgaged to M. Zarifi for a term of four years, the Government, he added, would then be in a position to deal with the interests of the bondholders by means of some practicable arrangement, but that as long as they continued to tie down the Government to its obligation of not alienating any portion of its revenues as security for a new loan, there was little hope of saving the country from the impending financial collapse, and less so of increasing the chances of an ultimate arrangement beneficial to their own interests.

The Sultan, whom I had the honour of seeing afterwards, spoke also of the scheme in question as having originated with himself, adding that he felt confident it would relieve the Government from all its present difficulties, and render the financial situation much more hopeful for the future.

I ventured to submit to the Sultan the observations I had already made to Munir Bey as to the opposition to be expected from the foreign bondholders, but found His Majesty impressed with the idea that the Cyprus revenues were free, and that they could consequently be applied to the interest on this new loan, in regard to which he greatly hoped to be able to obtain your Excellency's support as that of Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, August 10, 1879.

No. 320.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 727.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches, upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Prevesa, Sulina, and Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 320.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Prevesa, August* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translations of Mr. Kypriotis' despatches, dated 28th ultimo, one relating to brigandage and the other to the release, after three months' imprisonment, of four men who had been arrested and sent to Janina by the Mutessarif of Argyrocastro last winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 320.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Janina, July* 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that on the 20th instant a band of brigands, composed of seventeen men, thirteen of whom are Turco-Albanians and four Christians, entered the village of Proscoli, and carried off from the house of a certain Demetrio Ziogo two of his sons, for whose release a heavy ransom is demanded.

In the neighbourhood of the villages of Kalarites and Seracon about ninety brigands have made their appearance, who sometimes divide into separate bands and sometimes act together. The names of the leaders are Apostoli, Kokinos, and Spatliis. Most of these brigands come from Greece; the rest are natives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 320.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Janina, July 28, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that last winter the Mutessarif of Argyrocastro, Kiazim Bey, arrested, and sent hither tied, Ressit Posin, Hussen Gonga, Hassan Gomara, and Semson, because they were accomplices of brigands; but after three months' imprisonment they were released, and on returning to their homes they once more resumed their former occupation. From the above it will be seen that, notwithstanding the strict discharge of the duties of an official, such as in the case of the above Mutessarif, it is impossible to restrain brigandage, so long as energy and will do not become general, and the evil is left unpunished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 320.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sulina, August 5, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour of reporting to your Excellency that the Russian flotilla from the up-river Danubian ports (consisting of gun and torpedo boats), which arrived here on the 1st instant, left this yesterday (the 4th instant) for Odessa. They would have left on the 3rd instant, but were prevented from doing so through the bad weather that prevailed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) OCTAVIUS STOKES.

Inclosure 5 in No. 320.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul-General Palgrave.

Rustchuk, August 5, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state, in reply to your demand for information regarding proceedings in the Pravadi district, that since I left Varna on the 27th January, nothing has been officially brought before me in respect of such matters, nor can I state on my own knowledge whether the grave abuses complained of by the Porte occurred.

I understand that all or most of the acts complained of took place, not in the town of Pravadi itself, but in the districts depending on it, and some distance towards the borders of Eastern Roumelia, and I desire to point out most particularly that there is or was a large part of no-man's-land in that direction, consisting of the whole country between the River Kamchik and the new boundary-line not yet established, which formerly included in the Cazas of Aidos, Achiolu, and Missembria, but was given by the Treaty of Berlin to Bulgaria.

This country was governed from Varna, but reference to my further reports from that place in December and January will show that in fact it was also governed, or at least pillaged, from Aidos, Achiolu, and Missembria, and, in particular, by a miscreant called Dimitri Brackaloff, the Governor of Achiolu, who is now in high favour in Philippopolis. I have heard occasionally of Bulgarians having threatened Turkish women that they would have to conform to Christian usages, but I do not consider such reported threats of great importance, as they are probably only from individuals more or less inebriated, and I believe that the Governors of Varna and Rustchuk would not permit anything approaching to their accomplishment.

I am sorry to say there is a considerable, and, I fear, a growing amount of brigandage, in large districts, and conducted on highly impartial principles, and that the Government do not take the trouble to suppress it in Mussulman districts which they would do in Christian ones. No doubt the reasons are to a large extent the inadequacy of the police force and its imperfect discipline.

The police might easily be made more efficient and more numerous if the Prince's Government chose, for it seems to me that a country like Bulgaria has no moral right to have a single soldier until it is provided with sufficient police.

I think that there is little doubt that the Mussulman population is gradually diminishing. I have heard that all those of the Widdin district are either leaving or have left; similar movements are in progress in the Deli Orman and the Osman Pasha, and are very much to be regretted.

That they occur in consequence of persecution is certain; but the persecution consists in the delay, refusal, or maladministration of justice in many cases, or in the want of proper protection, rather than in any acts of the authorities against the said Mahommedans, but if to-day there is this exodus what may be expected next year if the Government carry out their intention of enrolling Mussulmans as soldiers?

I hear that the population of Bulgaria is now supposed to be from 1,250,000 to 1,500,000, of whom 500,000 are Mussulmans; if, therefore, these latter quit the country, the difference to it will be enormous. At present labour is dear and scarce, and as a rule the only field labour to be hired is Mussulman, whereas almost every Bulgar who can read and write is now either a Minister or Judge, or some high functionary, and it looks as if we shall have a country without servants, and with a considerable surplus of masters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 6 in No. 320.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Sir A. H. Layard.

Rustchuk, August 5, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency copy of a telegram I addressed to your Excellency to-day:—

"Evacuation of this district complete, last expedition left to-day."

I have only to add that there are a few officers and servants still left, who have some things to arrange. There are also some engineers employed in surveying for the new map of Bulgaria; but to all intents and purposes the Russian army of occupation is now a thing of the past.

On leaving, the Governor, Archbishop, a few functionaries, and spectators went to the wharf to bid them good-bye, but there was no crowd, nor did the townfolk make any demonstration whatever, although I believe it was very generally known that there was to be a leave-taking.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 320.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Consul-General Palgrave.

Varna, August 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of a copy of the résumé of the petition from the Mussulmans of Bulgaria, dated the 27th April, 1879, enumerating various outrages they had suffered at the hands of the Bulgarians.

None of the particular cases mentioned having come under my knowledge, save it be that of two Turks drowned in a well near Baltchik, which I had heard recounted by people worthy of credence, I showed the document to the Governor of Varna, who, taking a copy of it, proceeded to ascertain if there was any mention of these crimes in the public records, but these having been very inefficiently and carelessly

kept during the Russian administration, when the events complained of took place, the only case of which there was some notice was that of Topal Hassan, of the village of Sara, Pravadi district.

There being no dates given in the petition rendered the verification of the facts difficult, but the Governor directed that inquiries should be made at Pravadi, Bazardjik, &c., and at the same time informed me that he had learnt that the petition was not what it purported to be, one from the Mussulmans of Varna and Pravadi districts in general, but was written by a certain Arnaout, who was no longer here.

Be this as it may, there is no doubt that during the months of March, April, and May the Mussulman population were severely oppressed by their Christian neighbours, and the authorities, with a view, doubtless, not only of plunder, but of driving them out of the country, and it was during this period that I had the honour to forward you Reports of the 21st April, 29th April, and 8th May, relative to excesses of various kinds perpetrated on the Mussulmans living on both sides of the boundary-line separating Eastern Roumelia from Bulgaria, but who were mostly governed from the former province.

Although, as stated in my despatch of the 2nd September, tranquillity was much restored after the administration of the country had passed from Russian to Bulgarian hands, regrettable occurrences still occasionally happen; thus, about two weeks ago, five Turks of Bazardjik, on their way from that town to Kozludja, a neighbouring village, were murdered, and their bodies found heaped together and mutilated; three Turkish lads were killed while out gleaning about the same time.

The Deli Orman forest tract, mostly peopled by Mussulman villagers, which may be said to stretch roughly from Bazardjik to Rasgrad and Silistria, is greatly infested by Turkish brigands, indeed, to such an extent that the inhabitants are thinking of emigrating on account of their exactions, but had the sufferers been Bulgarians instead of Turks, it is probable that a stop would have been put to the brigandage ere this, as the Government appear unwilling to take active measures to prevent a result which many of its members desire, and that without any but passive participation on their side.

On the 5th instant a note was stuck up on the walls, but not communicated to the Representatives of the foreign Powers, that, by order of His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, the Province of Varna was declared under a state of siege, and accordingly all disorderly assemblages, brigandage, murder, &c., would be tried by a military Tribunal.

This measure seems rather one of prevention than called for by existing circumstances, for although numerous rumours have been afloat during the past week, endowed with an appearance of substantiality, that a band of sixty Turks had cut the telegraph wires near Pravadi, had decapitated fifteen Bulgarians at a certain village, —names of two victims, Government employés at Varna, given—that 300 armed Turks were surrounded by the militia, who had demanded reinforcements, &c., the only thing that has any foundation in fact is that the telegraph wire has been broken somewhere in Eastern Roumelia.

It is greatly to be deplored that the police force is not stronger and better composed; the Civil Governors themselves are the first to complain of its inefficiency, and that some of its members have rendered themselves guilty of acts they were supposed to repress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 321.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 729.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 12, 1879.*

SAFVET PASHA informs me that he has placed in the hands of the Russian Ambassador a statement of the grievances of the Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia, and of the many acts of cruelty and injustice to which they are exposed, and has made the strongest remonstrances to his Excellency on the subject. Prince Labanoff promised to take the matter into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 322.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 147. Political.)
My Lord, *Sophia, July 31, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that repeated acts of brigandage and other disturbances in the eastern part of the Principality, and especially in the districts of Toozlik and Deli-Orman, have induced His Highness the Prince, after consultation with his Ministers, to issue a Decree placing the districts in question, in some degree and for certain effects, under martial law. This Decree, signed on the $\frac{16th}{28th}$ instant, was not, however, promulgated till the $\frac{17th}{29th}$ of the same, and I have now the honour to inclose a translation.

A brief explanation of the circumstances that have necessitated this measure, and of the measure itself, appearing necessary, I have the honour to supply the following, based partly on information received from His Highness the Prince yesterday in a private interview, partly on that obtained by myself from other trustworthy sources.

The population of the districts in question is, in a proportion of about 65 per cent., not only Mahommedan by religion but of Turkish or Asiatic extraction, and very compact. The districts themselves, known chiefly by the names of Toozlik and Deli-Orman, are rugged and difficult of access, and have at all times had a bad reputation for brigandage and crime. Being situated out of the main lines of military operation followed during the last war, few comparatively of the inhabitants migrated; but a great number of the males were, and remained, absent from their villages as Redifs or Mustapliz in the Ottoman army. Those who remained behind are well armed, nor did the Russians ever attempt their disarmament; the arms are said, but with what truth I cannot tell, to have been principally supplied from the stores at Shumla.

During the Russian occupation of the Principality this population, though avowedly, nor unnaturally, discontented with the new order of things, kept quiet on the whole. But as early as the month of April last, on the first movements of evacuation, instances of brigandage and murder began to be heard of. Followed the arrival by Varna from Constantinople of a large number of discharged Ottoman soldiers, 9,000 according to official computation, and many of them not natives of the country, with their officers, who all established themselves in the region alluded to as a stronghold, and at once brigandage and disturbance began on a large scale.

I pass over, as not sufficiently authenticated, certain supposed details such as disguised emissaries from Constantinople, incendiary proclamations, secret committees, and the like, things widely reported and believed in, but not conclusively proved, which tend, in popular apprehension, to give the movement a political or national character; and, as a set-off against such ideas, I note the generally quiet and orderly condition of the Mahommedan population, especially the Pomak portion of it, in the other districts of the Principality. Yet it cannot be doubted that the condition of affairs in the Toozlik and the Deli-Orman is very serious, and requires energetic action: firstly, because an anarchical state of things, if once established there, would, owing to the topographical character of the country, be very hard to root out; secondly, because a movement of the sort might, as is evident, if unrepressed, readily spread among the hitherto quietly disposed Mahommedan population elsewhere.

The military jurisdiction established by the Prince's Decree in the disturbed districts is of a very limited nature, only comprising offences of a certain and definite class. His Highness expressed to me great regret at having been obliged to proceed even thus far; but declared that the unanimous opinion of his Ministry, as well as the gravity of the reports laid before him, left him no choice. He trusted that the crisis, and the measures it had necessitated, would alike soon come to an end.

In conclusion, I have to report that a large number of Bulgarian troops, amounting to about 8,000 men, have been directed on the districts in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 322.

Decree.

(Translation.)

We, Alexander I, by the grace of God and the national choice, Prince of Bulgaria:

WHEREAS in several districts of the Eastern part of this Principality armed bands, composed of more than 100 men at a time, have appeared, and have attacked towns and villages, necessitating even in time of peace the active services of the recently formed Bulgarian army to maintain public order:

And whereas the departure of the Russian army from the East of the Principality has been followed by an increase in the bands of brigands; so that on the night of the 25th June/7th July one of these bands attacked the town of Osman-Bazaar, and was only repulsed after two hours' hard fighting and the loss of several dead and wounded on the side of our troops; and that similar bands have at the same time assaulted Guerlovo, near Eski-Stambool, Toozlouk, and Eski-Jumaa.

Further, the patrol sent to keep order on the 4th June in the neighbourhood of Eski-Jumaa was fired on by one of these bands at Chaoush-Koi, and lost a man; while, on the same date, near midnight, a mounted band of brigands attacked the village of Tekke, 5 versts distant from Eski-Jumaa. A small body of soldiers, belonging to the Rasgrad battalion, was sent to the defence of the place, and found the brigands occupying a mountain pass near the village of Sorticlar, where it engaged and broke them, with the loss, however, of an officer dangerously wounded.

Incidents of this kind, as well as the reports made by the local authorities regarding the troubled condition and restlessness of the inhabitants, prove the absolute necessity of taking such measures as are indispensable for putting down these disorders.

These measures will be notified by the local authorities and accompanied by distinct statements tending to inspire confidence into the well disposed and orderly, whatever their religion or origin, as also to show the disorderly that our Government has determined to put an end to these troubles, in the view of the general advantage of the inhabitants of the land.

Therefore, and in accordance with Article 47 and 76 of the Constitution, after taking advice of the Minister of War, and with the consent of the Ministerial Council, we have decreed and do decree:—

1. That the entire Province of Varna, the districts of Rasgrad and Eski-Jumaa, belonging to the Province of Rustchuk, and the districts of Osman-Bazaar and of Elena—this last belonging to the Province of Tirnovo—be declared to be under martial law, temporarily, and till further orders.

2. In the districts so proclaimed we empower the military authority over the Eastern Division, in and for the districts aforesaid, to hand over for trial and sentence to the military Courts, and to cause to be inflicted such penalties as military men are liable to in time of war, all persons guilty of the following offences:—

(*a.*) Open revolt, or attacking with arms the peaceable population, or the local authorities, civil or military.

(*b.*) Deliberate murder.

(*c.*) Plunder, and arson of private property, or,

(*d.*) Pillaging military or Government stores.

3. To carry on the authority of the military Commander of the Eastern Division there shall be established, in one of the towns placed under martial law, a military Tribunal, before which are to be tried civilians guilty of the offences above enumerated, according to the Ordinances of paragraph 4 of the regulations of military Courts; and such cases are exempt from appeal to the Supreme Court, according to Articles 630 and 631 of the regulations of military Courts.

4. In accordance with Article 101 of the Military Penal Code, the military Commander of the Eastern Division is empowered, in case of public disorder, to take, in behalf of the public safety, all necessary measures and precautions, the infraction of which is to be punished conformably, after public preliminary notice has been given.

5. The present Decree applies to all acts of violence enumerated in Article 2 whether or not nominally included in the above.

Given at our Court of Sophia the 26th/13th July, 1879.

(Signed) ALEXANDER.

(Signed) General PARENSOFF, *Minister of War.*

No. 323.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 148.)

Sophia, August 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that with regard to the demolition of the fortresses, as prescribed in Article XI of the Berlin Treaty, the following information has reached me from private but trustworthy sources:—

At Silistria a contract has been made with a German agent for destroying the stone and wood work, at the rate of 2 fr. per fathom, the materials being also made over to the contractor.

At Widdin the work of demolition has made considerable progress, but the Municipality have asked for a loan to help them towards its completion.

At Varna the upper portion of the fortifications, including the embrasures, has been destroyed, but assistance is required, as at Widdin, for removing the revetment of stone below.

At Rustchuk five of the lesser forts outside the town have been levelled.

At Shumla some portion of the works has been demolished, but I have no accurate information as to its extent.

Lastly, I am assured by His Highness the Prince that measures for completing the demolition of the above-mentioned fortresses are at present being discussed in the Ministerial Council.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 324.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 150.)

Sophia, August 2, 1879.

My Lord,

AS illustrative to a certain extent of the tendencies at present existing in the Principality, I have the honour to forward herewith a translation of a Monetary Tariff lately issued by Ministerial Decree.

It is to be noted that while a slightly inflated value is assigned to the Russian currency, gold, silver, or metal, the English and French currencies being maintained at their previous and generally received rates, the Austrian and Turkish currencies are each depreciated, whether gold or silver.

The Austro-Hungarian Agent has, I am informed, strongly protested against the above estimate, so far as it affects the currency of his own Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 324.

MONETARY TARIFF.

(Translation.)

	Fr. c.
English sovereign	25 00
Turkish lira	22 70
Pot Imperial	20 60
Napoleon	20 00
Austrian lira	19 84
Five francs piece	5 00
Medjidié	4 00
New rouble	3 70
Metal pieces of 20 copeks, &c.	0 50

Sophia, July 14/26, 1879.

No. 325.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord,
Sophia, August 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that a Bulgarian deputation, selected by the late Imperial Russian Commissioner for the purpose of conveying in person an address of thanks on the part of the Bulgarian inhabitants of the Principality to His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, and composed of the Archbishop of Widdin, the Bishop of Tirnovo, and four laymen of no note, has already set out on its way viâ Odessa for St. Petersburgh, where it is expected to arrive shortly, there meeting the ex-Commissary, who will present it to the Emperor.

No person here, at least among the Bulgarians themselves, takes the smallest interest in the deputation, its address, or its reception at St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 326.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord,
Sophia, August 4, 1879.

YESTERDAY I had the honour of sending a telegram to your Lordship to the following effect:—

That brigandage on a large scale had of late broken out on several points in the Toozlik and Deli Orman districts, belonging to the Governments of Rustchuk, Varna, and, in part, of Tirnovo, in the easterly division of the Principality; so that the Prince in Council had judged it necessary to proclaim the partial application of martial law, and to cause a concentration of troops in those districts.

I added that I would transmit a translation of His Highness' proclamation on the occasion, together with further details, in despatch form, by post.

Your Lordship may observe, from the date of the despatch in question, that my information on these points preceded my sending the above telegram by some days. This was owing to a doubt on my part whether the importance of the events was sufficient to justify such a measure, and my consequent desire to confer on the topic with my colleagues, which, however, being confined to my house by ill health, I was unable to do till Saturday evening last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 327.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 153.)
My Lord,
Sophia, August 4, 1879.

IN reply to a telegram received from your Lordship the night previous, I had the honour yesterday to send a telegraphic despatch to the following effect:—

That the low grade of official rank occupied by the proposed bearer of the Berat of the Princely investiture, namely, Pertev Effendi, rendered his selection for that purpose somewhat inauspicious; since the announcement, already public here for some time past, was looked on by His Highness the Prince as a slight, designedly put upon him by the Sublime Porte, in addition to, and harmonizing with, those which His Highness considers himself to have already received in that quarter during his passage through Constantinople.

To the above I have now the honour to add that His Highness the Prince is resolved, whatever his feeling, to receive the Berat and its bearer with all possible deference and courtesy. Also that the Russians here are extremely pleased with the selection made by the Sublime Porte, for the precise reasons already specified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 328.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord,
Philippopolis, August 5, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 110 of the 27th July, I have the honour to report that General Vitalis has placed in my hands a telegram from the officer in command of the militia at Hasskeui, who states that there is no foundation for the rumour respecting the formation of a mounted National Guard in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 329.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 155.)
My Lord,
Philippopolis, August 6, 1879.

THE inclosed extract from the "Maritza" refers to the alleged disorders on the frontier at Buyuk-Dervent. General Vitalis informs me that those disorders have been much exaggerated, and the report made upon them by one of his own officers showed that the village in question had been abandoned at Russian instigation.

As regards the last paragraph of the inclosed article, it is evident that the incident therein mentioned was a mere act of brigandage, as a Mussulman was one of the victims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 329.

Extract from the "Maritza" of August 5, 1879.

LA plainte suivante vient d'être adressée au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie par les habitants du village de Pachmakeuy (canton de Kyzyl-Agatch):

"Un abattement général s'est emparé des habitants de la Roumélie Orientale dans les contrées limitrophes de la Turquie. Les Bachi-Bozouks y sèment la terreur et beaucoup d'habitants se sont enfuis abandonnant toute leur fortune, comme cela est arrivé à Buyuk-Dervent, village de 120 maisons. Les habitants de ce village se sont sauvés on ne sait pas où. La cause en sont les nombreux méfaits que les Turcs commirent avant que des troupes ne fussent envoyées à la frontière. Si par exemple un paysan dépassait la frontière pour aller chercher du bétail ou pour d'autres affaires, il ne retournait plus au village, car les Turcs le massacrèrent.

"Le 20 Juillet une foule de soldats Turcs réguliers, passant la frontière sous la conduite de ses officiers, envahit Buyuk-Dervent, chassa la garde du village et, après avoir enlevé toutes les provisions de bouche qu'elle put y trouver, s'en retourna en Turquie. Le même méfait a été de nouveau commis par la troupe régulière qui cette fois-ci commença par désarmer la garde du village.

"Les officiers et soldats, auteurs de ces sauvageries interrogèrent la garde du village s'il y a beaucoup de troupes dans la Roumélie Orientale et où elles se trouvent.

"Les Turcs, armés jusqu'aux dents, passent et repassent tous les jours la frontière.

Ils disent ouvertement que dans le courant du mois d'Août ou de Septembre il y aura un soulèvement des Turcs avec le but d'égorger tous les Bulgares."

D'un autre côté nous apprenons que le Directoire a reçu, il y a cinq jours, une dépêche d'Athos l'informant que les Turcs de cette contrée, après avoir assassiné le Commissaire de Police Anton Pétroff et quelques gendarmes, continuent à se livrer au pillage et au massacre sur la population et les représentants de l'autorité.

La Sublime Porte saisira-t-elle cette occasion pour adresser aussi une note contre les forfaits de l'élément Turc aux Grandes Puissances?

No. 330.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 158.) *Philippopolis, August* 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the *compte-rendu* of the 76th meeting of the Commission for the Organization of Eastern Roumelia, held on the 30th July.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 76, tenue le $\frac{18}{30}$ *Juillet*, 1879 (12 *Chaban*, 1296), *à la Délégation d'Allemagne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. de BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzereteiew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures du soir.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par *M. Rozet*, est adopté.

Le Commissaire d'Italie fait remarquer qu'au page 5 (lignes 6 et suivantes) du compte-rendu de la séance No. 74, il est dit: "Le Chevalier Vernoni rappelle qu'il est l'auteur de l'un des Articles au sujet. . . . ." Il prie le bureau de rectifier cette phrase, en remplaçant les mots, "de l'un," par ceux-ci, "de deux."

Mr. Michell dépose la motion suivante:—

"*Motion.*

"La Commission Européenne est d'avis que le Gouverneur-Général devrait procéder immédiatement à l'exécution de l'Article 370 du Statut, ainsi conçu:

"'Article 370. Aussitôt après la promulgation du présent Statut, on établira, dans

chaque commune, un registre-matricule contenant les noms de tous les habitants mâles domiciliés dans la commune, depuis les nouveaux-nés jusqu'aux hommes âgés de 32 ans révolus.'

"Selon l'avis de la Commission, l'absence des réfugiés ne saurait mettre un retard à l'exécution de cet Article, vu que les réfugiés pourront être portés dans les registres-matricules au fur et à mesure de leur rentrée dans la province."

Le Président est chargé de transmettre au Gouverneur-Général copie de cet avis.

La Commission décide que la motion sera mise à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne tient à constater que la déclaration faite par les Délégués Ottomans, dans la séance No. 74, au sujet des "droits découlant pour la Sublime Porte du Traité de Berlin," n'a soulevé aucune objection, et doit, en conséquence, être considérée comme acceptée par la Commission.

Le Prince Tzereteiew répond que la Commission ne peut porter une atteinte quelconque aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin.

L'ordre du jour rappelle la continuation du débat sur la motion déposée, à la soixante-quatorzième séance, par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne au sujet d'une pétition adressée, le 13 Juin, par la Démogérontie de Philippopoli à la Commission Européenne.

Le Baron de Ring donne lecture de la consultation qui lui a été demandée à ce sujet à la dernière séance:—

"Son Excellence M. le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale paraît avoir compris l'Article 21 du Statut Organique dans ce sens qu'il ne devait confier les principaux postes administratifs et judiciaires des différentes circonscriptions qu'à des candidats choisis parmi la nationalité dont se compose la majorité des habitants de chacune de ces circonscriptions. Cette interprétation ne répond pas, je crois, à la pensée des rédacteurs du Statut. En effet, si elle était strictement suivie, elle aurait pour conséquence nécessaire d'écarter complétement des fonctions publiques, les citoyens appartenant aux groupes ethnographiques, qui ne forment nulle part la majorité de la population (tels que les Arméniens et les Israélites) de léser les Grecs et les Musulmans, et enfin de créer au profit de l'élément Bulgare un monopole absolument contraire à l'esprit de l'Article 21, dont les deux premiers alinéas sont ainsi conçus:

"'Les indigènes de la Roumélie Orientale, sans distinction de races et de croyances religieuses, jouissent des mêmes droits.

"'Les emplois, honneurs, et fonctions publiques leur sont également accessibles, suivant leurs aptitudes, leur mérite, et leur capacité.'

"Ces dispositions salutaires ne seraient-elles pas rendues illusoires, si, sous le prétexte que la majorité des habitants est Bulgare dans tous les six départements de la province, jamais un Grec ne pouvait devenir Préfet?: ou si, vu la majorité Bulgare dans le pays tout entier, un Israélite, fut-il un homme de génie, ne pouvait jamais devenir Directeur.

"Le premier membre de phrase de l'Article 21 imposait donc, selon moi, au Gouverneur-Général, le désir de choisir, pour tous les emplois indistinctement, les candidats les plus dignes dans le sens de l'Article 24, sauf à les employer ensuite là où ils eussent le mieux cadré avec la majorité de la population (deuxième membre de phrase de l'Article 21). Mais cela posé en principe, reconnaissons en fait que lorsque M. le Gouverneur-Général est venu dans le pays, il n'y a trouvé, pour les postes auxquels il devait pourvoir, qu'un nombre très-insuffisant de candidats ayant des antécédants administratifs et des titres acquis à un emploi déterminé. Il a donc manqué le plus souvent d'un *criterium* sûr pour découvrir le plus digne. Qu'aurait-il donc dû faire dans ces conditions? Le plus simple eut été à mon avis, qu'il fît à chacune des nationalités de la province, dans les emplois publics, une part à peu près proportionnelle à son importance numérique, et qu'après avoir trié, en s'appuyant sur cette base, les candidats les plus dignes, en se servant pour cette opération des éléments, d'ailleurs très-insuffisants, d'information qu'il possédait, il répartit les fonctionnaires par lui choisis de manière à contenter le plus possible la majorité dans les différentes circonscriptions. De la sorte il eût certainement échappé au reproche d'avoir, dans un but de popularité personnelle, favorisé avec excès l'élément prépondérant.

"Au reste il convient de tenir compte au Gouverneur-Général des difficultés de sa tâche, ainsi que des lacunes que présentent les statistiques concernant la population de la Roumélie Orientale; et comme un grand nombre de nominations faites jusqu'ici ne sont que provisoires, il est permis d'espérer que dans un avenir prochain les minorités

pourront obtenir quelques-unes des réparations auxquelles elles ont droit. J'ajouterai encore que pour ce qui concerne l'élément Musulman, l'Administration provinciale doit tenir équitablement compte des émigrés. Un grand nombre de ceux-ci rentreront sans doute, et dès lors le corps administratif et judiciaire du pays ne répondrait pas à son objet, s'il était formé sans aucun égard pour cette portion de la population."

Le Commissaire de France ajoute que, selon lui, la Commission Européenne ne saurait d'ailleurs répondre directement à la pétition de la Démogérontie Grecque de Philippopoli, attendu que ce Conseil est sorti de ses attributions en se donnant comme le représentant de toute la communauté Grecque de la province.

Le Prince Tzeretelew partage la manière de voir de son collègue de France.

M. de Kallay est tout disposé à se rallier à la consultation du Baron de Ring; mais il serait d'avis qu'on lui donnât la forme d'une déclaration.

Le Commissaire de Russie votera le texte du Baron de Ring, si celui-ci veut bien apporter à son travail quelques modifications de rédaction.

Apres un court échange d'idées auquel prennent part tous les Commissaires, la déclaration suivante, rédigée par le Baron de Ring, est mise aux voix par le Président :—

"*Déclaration.*

"Son Excellence M. le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale paraît avoir compris l'Article 21 du Statut Organique dans ce sens, qu'il ne devait confier les principaux postes administratifs et judiciaires des différentes circonscriptions qu'à des candidats choisis parmi la nationalité dont se compose la majorité des habitants de chacune de ces circonscriptions. Cette interprétation ne répond pas à la pensée des rédacteurs du Statut. En effet, si elle était strictement suivie, elle aurait pour conséquence nécessaire d'écarter complétement des fonctions publiques les citoyens appartenant aux groupes ethnographiques qui ne forment nulle part la majorité de la population (tels que les Arméniens et les Israélites), de léser les Grecs et les Musulmans, et enfin de créer au profit de l'élément Bulgare un monopole absolument contraire à l'esprit de l'Article 24, dont les deux premiers alinéas sont ainsi conçus :

"'Les indigènes de la Roumélie Orientale, sans destinction de races et de croyances religieuses, jouissent des mêmes droits.

"'Les emplois, honneurs, et fonctions publiques leur sont également accessibles suivant leurs aptitudes, leur mérite, et leur capacité.'

"Le premier membre de phrase de l'Article 21 imposait donc au Gouverneur-Général le devoir de choisir, pour tous les emplois indistinctement, les candidats les plus dignes dans le sens de l'Article 24; sauf à les employer ensuite là où ils eussent le mieux cadré avec la majorité de la population (deuxième membre de phrase de l'Article 21). Mais cela posé en principe, la Commission reconnaît en fait que lorsque M. le Gouverneur-Général est venu dans le pays, il n'y a trouvé, pour les postes auxquels il devait pourvoir, qu'un nombre très-insuffisant de candidats ayant des antécédents administratifs et des titres acquis à un emploi déterminé. Il a donc manqué le plus souvent d'un *criterium* sûr pour découvrir le plus digne. Dans ces conditions le plus simple eut été que le Gouverneur-Général fit à chacune des communautés de la province, dans les emplois publics, une part à peu près proportionelle à son importance numérique, et qu'après avoir trié en s'appuyant sur cette base les candidats les plus dignes, en se servant pour cette opération des éléments, d'ailleurs très-insuffisants, d'information qu'il possédait, il répartît les fonctionnaires par lui choisis de manière à contenter le plus possible la majorité dans les différentes circonscriptions.

"Au reste, il convient de tenir compte au Gouverneur-Général des difficultés de sa tâche, ainsi que des lacunes que présentent les statistiques concernant la population de la Roumélie Orientale; et, comme un grand nombre de nominations faites jusqu'ici ne sont que provisoires, il est permis d'espérer que dans un avenir prochain les minorités pourront obtenir quelques-unes des réparations auxquelles elles ont droit d'après une juste interprétation du Statut. La Commission estime en outre que, pour ce qui concerne l'élément Musulman, l'administration provinciale doit tenir équitablement compte des émigrés. Un grand nombre de ceux-ci rentrent en ce moment, et dès lors le corps administratif et judiciaire du pays ne répondrait pas à son objet s'il était formé sans aucun égard pour cette portion de la population."

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, d'Italie, et de Russie acceptent la déclaration.

Mr. Michell vote dans le même sens, en constatant que cette déclaration reproduit les idées exprimées dans sa motion, qu'il retire en conséquence.

Les Délégués Ottomans auraient préféré le texte du Commissaire de la Grande-Bretagne; néanmoins ils votent la déclaration pour les mêmes raisons que Mr. Michell.

Le Président constate que la déclaration a été adoptée à l'unanimité.

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur la motion déposée par le Baron de Ring à la séance No. 75.

M. Rozet relit cette pièce :—

"*Motion.*

"La Commission Européenne déclare que la pétition publiée par le journal la "Maritza," à la troisième page de son numéro du $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet, constitue de la part de ses auteurs, qui y prennent indûment la qualification de Députés de la Roumélie Orientale :—

"1. Une usurpation de titre;

"2. Une usurpation de fonctions.

"En effet, l'Article 13 du Règlement Electoral formant annexe au Chapitre V du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, a limité strictement les attributions de la Commission chargée de donner au Gouverneur-Général de la province son avis sur la formation des circonscriptions électorales pour les premières élections provinciales. Nul membre de cette Commission n'était donc autorisé, comme tel, à faire de la politique en critiquant le Traité de Berlin, et en protestant contre le maintien à la tête de la milice locale d'un Officier-Général nommé par Sa Majesté le Sultan dans l'exercice constitutionnel de ses droits.

"La Commission Européenne, en faisant cette déclaration, regrette que son Excellence M. le Gouverneur-Général ait reçu la pétition illégale ci-dessus visée."

Le Baron de Ring dit que les signataires de la protestation dirigée contre le Général Vitalis sont sortis des attributions que le Statut Organique assigne au corps dont ils faisaient partie. La Commission Européenne chargée de veiller à la stricte application de son œuvre ne doit rien négliger pour que cette œuvre soit respectée. S'il est permis à tout Rouméliote d'exprimer librement ses opinions personnelles, on ne peut reconnaître à des personnes revêtues d'un caractère public le droit de s'occuper comme telles de questions qui sont soustraites à la compétence du corps dont ces personnes font partie :—"Le Gouverneur-Général," dit en terminant le Baron de Ring, "reconnaîtra, j'en suis sûr, la justesse de mes observations."

Mr. Michell s'associe aux idées exprimées par son collègue de France et se croit d'autant plus obligé d'appuyer sa motion qu'ayant l'avantage de connaître la langue Bulgare, il a pu constater que le document sur lequel le Baron de Ring a attiré l'attention des Commissaires portait, au dire de la "Maritza," la signature des "Députés des colléges de la Bulgarie du Sud :" "Cette qualification," ajoute le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, "est contraire aux dispositions du Traité de Berlin et de notre Statut Organique, et je dois protester énergiquement en la voyant reproduite à tort dans le journal où ont été insérées jusqu'ici les publications officielles du Gouvernement Rouméliote."

Le Prince Tzeretelew n'attribue, en principe, aucune importance aux articles des journaux; mais le Baron de Ring ayant présenté sa motion, il est prêt à y adhérer et il y adhérera d'autant plus volontiers que ne reconnaissant pas aux Démogérontes le droit de parler au nom de leur communauté, il ne peut davantage reconnaître ce droit aux membres de la Commission chargée de donner son avis sur la formation des colléges électoraux.

M. de Kallay pense que la Commission n'est plus obligée de garder vis-à-vis des agissements de la presse la même réserve qu'au début de ses travaux: "Nous ne sommes plus aujourd'hui," dit-il, "des législateurs; nous veillons maintenant à l'exacte application du Statut que Sa Majesté le Sultan a sanctionné; rien ne s'oppose donc à ce que nous prenions connaissance des articles de journaux qui informent le public, et avec plus ou moins d'exactitude, des faits qui se rapportent à la mission dont nous sommes chargés. Pour les raisons que je viens d'exposer, je me déclare prêt à voter dans son entier la motion de mon collègue de France."

M. de Braunschweig et M. Vernoni adhèrent également à la motion du Baron de Ring.

Le Président met aux voix cette motion, qui est votée à l'unanimité par la Commission.

Le Prince Tzeretelew prie ses collègues de Turquie de vouloir bien faire savoir à la Commission si la Sublime Porte a pris les dispositions nécessaires pour exécuter l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Abro Effendi déclare que les règlements provinciaux sont sur le point d'être terminés, et qu'ils seront prochainement soumis aux Commissions Spéciales à convoquer dans les différentes provinces de la Turquie d'Europe.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 6 Août:—

La motion de Mr. Michell au sujet de l'établissement des registres-matricules prévus par l'Article 370 du Statut.

La séance est levée à 7 heures du soir.

(Signé) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.
CURIEL.

No. 331.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 8, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 140 of the instant, I beg to forward to your Lordship herewith an extract from the last number of the "Philippoupolis," giving an account of some further acts of agression committed by Bulgarians on Turkish refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 331.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of August 6, 1879.

DIMANCHE dernier, environ 800 réfugiés Musulmans, accompagnés de leurs femmes et de leurs enfants, se rendaient, les uns à Carlovo et les autres aux villages de Abdul Rahmanli et de Yan-Ombachi. Leur rapatriement s'effectuait avec l'autorisation et par ordre du Gouvernement, qui avait mis à leur disposition une quinzaine de chariots pour transporter leurs effets.

A peine sortis de Philippopoli, et à une petite distance de Carasiaka, quartier situé sur la rive gauche de la Maritza, un nombre considérable de Bulgares, habitant ce faubourg, leur ont intercepté le chemin, et une rixe qui aurait pu avoir de bien plus graves conséquences, a éclaté. Une Turque (belle-sœur de Mollah Mehemet), un garçon, et un homme ont été blessés. Ce dernier l'a été à la tête d'un coup de baïonnette.

Les victimes de cette agression, reconnaissant la gravité de leurs nombreuses blessures, sont retournées en ville. Nous les avons vues, se rendant au conak, couvertes de sang.

Les autres émigrés, escortés par une compagnie de miliciens, ont presque aussitôt poursuivi leur route.

Que leur arrivera-t-il une fois réinstallés dans leurs foyers ou disséminés dans leurs champs? Nous voudrions bien que notre confrère la "Maritza" nous rassurât sur l'avenir de ces malheureuses gens.

Parmi les réfugiés dont nous venons de parler, se rendant Dimanche dernier à Carlovo et aux deux autres villages, on remarquait sur un char un Turc, nommé Ali Dzinoglou, originaire de Avlalar. Il était sans mouvement, avait le corps tout noir de meurtrissures et ne donnait signe de vie que par de sourds gémissements.

Voici ce qui s'était passé deux ou trois jours auparavant:

Ali Dzinoglou, depuis son arrivée à Philippopoli, habitait, avec ses compatriotes, dans les baraquements situés derrière le Bournardjik.

Vers la fin de la semaine dernière, ce Musulman s'était hasardé seul du côté des aires situées dans le voisinage. A peine avait-il fait quelques centaines de pas, qu'il fut accosté par deux individus portant l'uniforme militaire. Ils l'insultèrent d'abord, et le rouèrent ensuite de si forts coups de gourdin qu'ils le laissèrent à demi-mort.

Avant de se retirer, les deux agresseurs eurent le soin de l'alléger des 160 piastres qui constituaient toute sa fortune.

Il fut trouvé, gisant, par quelques réfugiés, de ses compatriotes, qui s'empressèrent de le transporter aux baraquements.

Depuis ce jour, il ne lui a presque pas été possible de parler, tant les douleurs qu'il éprouve sont aiguës.

Son état pitoyable ne laisse guère l'espoir de le sauver.

No. 332.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the Compte-rendu (No. 77) of the sitting held by the Commission on the 6th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 332.

Compte-Rendu.—Séance No. 77, *tenue le* $\frac{25 \text{ Juillet}}{6 \text{ Août}}$, 1879 (19 *Chaban*, 1296) *à la Délégation d'Allemagne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. de BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à deux heures du soir.

Le Compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par *M. Rozet*, est adopté.

Le Président annonce qu'il a transmis au Gouverneur-Général un exemplaire des Comptes-rendus des séances Nos. 74 et 75 ainsi qu'une copie de la déclaration et de la motion votées à la dernière séance.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne déclare que son Gouvernement a approuvé le vote émis par lui, à la séance No. 74, au sujet du troisième alinéa du deuxième Article de la déclaration définissant le nouveau mandat de la Commission Européenne.

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur la motion de Mr. Michell relative à l'établissement des registres-matricules prévus par l'Article 370 du Statut.

Le Président juge utile de relire cette motion :—

"*Motion.*

"La Commission Européenne est d'avis que le Gouverneur-Général devrait procéder immédiatement à l'exécution de l'Article 370 du Statut, ainsi conçu :

"'Article 370. Aussitôt après la promulgation du present Statut, on établira, dans chaque commune, un registre-matricule contenant les noms de tous les habitants mâles domiciliés dans la commune, depuis les nouveaux-nés jusqu'aux hommes âgés de 32 ans révolus.'

"Selon l'avis de la Commission, l'absence des réfugiés ne saurait mettre un retard à l'exécution de cet Article, vu que les réfugiés pourront être portés dans les registres-matricules au fur et à mesure de leur rentrée dans la province.

"Le Président est chargé de transmettre au Gouverneur-Général copie de cet avis."

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne dit que l'Europe a manifesté l'intention bien arrêtée de créer en Roumélie Orientale un état de choses satisfaisant pour toute la population, et que les auteurs du Statut Organique n'ont rien négligé pour assurer aux diverses communautés de la province le bénéfice de la plus stricte impartialité : "Tout en reconnaissant," ajoute Mr. Michell, "les nombreuses difficultés auxquelles se heurte sans aucun doute la nouvelle Administration, la Commission ferait bien, je crois, d'engager son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général à exécuter le plus tôt possible les prescriptions de l'Article 370. L'établissement des registres-matricules aurait pour conséquence une exacte répartition des charges militaires, et ce au plus grand avantage des Bulgares ; les renseignements statistiques que procurerait cette mesure seraient en outre d'un très-précieux secours pour le Gouverneur-Général."

Le Président met aux voix la motion de Mr. Michell.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie l'acceptent.

Le Prince Tzeretelew, afin d'être agréable à son collègue de la Grande Bretagne, vote également la motion ; mais il n'y attache pas d'importance pratique.

Mr. Michell constate que sa motion a été acceptée à l'unanimité, et prie le Président de vouloir bien en transmettre copie à son Excellence Aleko Pacha.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne attire l'attention de ses collègues sur ce fait que les collègues appelés à Philippopoli pour être consultés au sujet de la délimitation des circonscriptions électorales ont pris à tort, dans la protestation publiée par la "Maritza," et dont la Commission s'est occupée récemment, le titre de "délégués chargés de la délimitation des circonscriptions électorales." La qualification que ces délégués se sont arrogée est fausse ; les représentants des arrondissements n'étaient pas en effet chargés de délimiter eux-mêmes les circonscriptions électorales, mais de donner simplement un avis au Gouverneur-Général. Ce fonctionnaire est donc seul responsable vis-à-vis du Souverain de cette opération, dont l'importance capitale pour l'avenir de la province ne saurait échapper a personne.

Le Prince Tzeretelew, en admettant que toute la responsabilité d'une Ordonnance rendue par le Gouverneur-Général retombe naturellement sur ce dignitaire, fait remarquer que la Commission qui lui a prêté le concours de ses lumières pour former les colléges électoraux était composée, d'après le Statut, des Administrateurs-Généraux, des Chefs des communautés religieuses et des représentants des anciens arrondissements, et que par conséquent son Excellence Aleko Pacha pouvait difficilement s'écarter de l'avis de personnes aussi compétentes.

M. de Kallay et les Commissaires Ottomans partagent la manière de voir de leur collègue de la Grande Bretagne.

M. de Braunschweig se rallie également aux opinions de Mr. Michell.

Le Prince Tzeretelew dépose la motion suivante relative à la Pétition No. 97 adressé par des villageois de l'ancien caza d'Ahi Tchelebi à la Commission Européenne :—

"*Motion.*

"La Commission, ayant pris connaissance de la Pétition No. 97 et reconnaissant qu'elle sort de sa compétence, décide que ses membres la communiqueront individuellement à leurs Ambassades respectives et à la Sublime Porte."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance :

La motion déposée par le Prince Tzeretelew.

La séance est levée à six heures du soir.

(Signé) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
SELIM.
CUNIEL.

No. 333.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 162.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship, herewith, a copy of the second Report made by the Commission of Inquiry into the outrage on the Jews at Carlovo.

The weak testimony given by the Jews themselves, with the object of conciliating their Bulgarian fellow subjects, has enabled the Commission to reduce to very slender proportions the offences committed by the inhabitants of Carlovo against the Jewish refugees.

This result has afforded materials for an article in the "Maritza," herewith inclosed, in which the local Government is attacked for having given importance to the incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 333.

Extract from the "Maritza" of August 8, 1879.

VOICI le texte du Rapport que M. N. Vlasakoff, Président de la Commission d'Enquête pour l'Affaire de Karlovo a adressé à M. Krestovitch, Secrétaire Général :—

"Excellence,

"Conformément à l'ordre de Son Altesse le Prince Gouverneur et de son Conseil Privé, qui m'a été communiqué par la lettre de votre Excellence en date du 25 Juin/7 Juillet 1879, la Commission d'Enquête pour les événements de Karlovo s'est réunie de nouveau le même jour pour procéder à l'audition des Israélites que M. Daniel Vénétziani, représentant l'Alliance Israélite, avait conduits à Karlovo.

"Des pièces ci-annexées au nombre de 15, il résulte que le tumulte qui eut lieu à Karlovo le 1/13 Juin, lors de l'arrivée des familles Israélites dans cette ville, n'a eu nullement le caractère d'une démonstration préméditée contre le rapatriement de ces familles, ni des conséquences de nature à la compromettre en quoi que ce soit la population sensée de cette ville ou les autorités locales.

"Les témoignages donnés par les Juifs eux-mêmes ainsi que l'enquête de Karlovo s'accordent à confirmer que le tumulte, complétement accidentel, n'a eu d'autres mobiles que la présence, dans le convoi Israélite, des individus, qui s'étaient plus ou moins compromis pendant les tristes événements de 1877, d'un côté, et le souvenir de ces mêmes événements, qui s'est conservé jusqu'à ce jour dans la mémoire des habitants, témoins de ces scènes d'horreur, de l'autre.

"Indépendamment de nombreuses autres preuves, la vérité de ce fait ressort de la frayeur même qui saisit les Juifs avant leur entrée dans la ville.

"La femme Juive nommée Gentellio, l'une des deux précisément qui furent blessées par les coups de pierres, dans sa déposition exprime ainsi à ce sujet :—

"'Avant d'entrer en ville, la peur nous saisit, pour qui n'avait pour motif que le souvenir des événements de l'avant dernière année.'

"La seconde des femmes blessées, nommée Perultcha, dans le courant de sa déposition, après avoir confirmé l'existence de ces frayeurs parmi les Juifs avant leur entrée dans la ville, ajoute : 'Aussitôt que j'ai déchargé mes effets, j'ai pris mon fils cadet Jako, le valet de Signor Vénétziani, et une autre femme Juive, et nous sommes allés voir ma maison ; une femme Ghiaour me saisit au collet et me dit, 'donne-moi mon mari, donne moi ton mari ; c'est vous qui l'avez livré aux Turcs.' Sur ces entrefaites,' continue Perultcha, 'est venue l'épouse de Hadji Tacho qui habite ma maison, m'a pris par la main, et après m'avoir rassurée à part quelques bonnes paroles, m'a promenée dans toute ma maison, que j'ai trouvée en très-bon état.' Ici la Commission a remarqué un petit détail. La Juive susmentionnée, Perultcha, dans sa déposition, chaque fois qu'elle parlait de ses anciens voisins, les Chrétiens de Karlovo, leur donnait la qualification peu flatteuse de Ghiaour. Je ne l'ai pas rectifiée car j'attribuais cela à une habitude blâmable plutôt qu'à un sentiment de haine envers ses voisins.

"Présento Roupénoff et Avraam Mizan eurent à supporter des mésaventures pareilles. Le premier dans sa déposition s'exprime ainsi : 'Lorsque nous entrâmes dans la ville, il y régnait une tranquillité parfaite et personne ne nous a rien dit ; nous nous sommes arrêtés devant la maison du Mutévéli désignée d'avance pour notre installation provisoire ; là parût Boti Boginoff et en s'adressant aux trois ou quatre gendarmes qui s'y trouvaient, il nous montra, Mizan et moi, du doigt à eux et il leur dit : 'Voilà, ce sont ceux-ci qui ont pillé mon magasin.' En se tournant ensuite vers moi personnellement ; 'toi, tu es revenu aussi ? Et tu t'es même affublé d'un calpaque Bulgare ?' Boti, après nous avoir apostrophé de la sorte, s'est retiré dans sa boutique sans nous dire davantage.

"Sarutcha, une autre femme Juive, se plaigne de ce qu'à leur départ de Karlovo les gamins qui se trouvaient dans les rues se moquaient des Juifs, et de ce qu'une femme Bulgare lui avait arraché de ses mains un tapis qu'elle disait avoir reconnu pour le sien.

"Au sujet de ce tapis violemment arraché, M. D. Vénétziani dans sa déposition du 5e Juillet s'exprime ainsi : 'J'avais remarqué la scène qui eut lieu entre une femme Bulgare et une femme Juive. Mais que cette dispute avait pour objet la réclamation d'un misérable tapis soi-disant volé, ce n'est que plus tard que je l'ai appris.' Dans le rapport adressé par lui à votre Excellence, il n'en fait cependant pas mention.

"La déposition No. 8 de Rahamine Avraam Piadé donne l'idée la plus saisissante de la panique sous l'empire de laquelle se trouvaient les Juifs avant d'arriver dans la ville. Cette panique, confirmée aussi par le No. 13 de M. P. Marti, finit par prendre —à la suite des mésaventures sus-mentionnées, qui sont arrivées à quelques individus— les proportions d'une véritable terreur.

"Voici comment Rahimine Piadé commence sa déposition : 'Bien que nous sommes entrés en bon ordre, en tranquillité parfaite, et que ceux des habitants qui se tenaient devant leurs maisons avaient l'air paisible et plutôt bienveillant qu'hostile, j'ai été néanmoins saisi de la peur aussitôt que j'ai vu une femme secouer la tête, en regardant celui qui accompagnait M. Vénétziani (c'était le Secrétaire de la Municipalité). Dans son mouvement je voyais les indices d'une menace, elle avait l'air de vouloir dire : "Vous autres, vous amenez ici les Juifs, mais ils en verront des belles !" Plus loin le même Rahamine dit : 'Lorsque nous arrivâmes près de la maison du chef de canton, un nommé Tzvantzik, tailleur, prononça ces paroles : "Eh, mon vieux, tu es donc revenu de nouveau ?" Ces mots,' dit Rahamine, 's'adressaient à Hadji Persiado ; mais lui ne les a pas entendus, c'est moi qui les ai entendus par mes propres oreilles, et c'est alors que j'ai perdu la tête.' La déposition de cet homme qui exerce la profession de maître d'école ne contient d'un bout à l'autre, que de sinistres suppositions, et trahit une terreur indicible.

"Salomon Festchi (déposition No. 3), un de ceux qui figurent dans la liste de la Municipalité de Karlovo parmi les Juifs qui s'étaient le plus compromis en 1877, a entendu, affirme-t-il, des Bulgares causant entre eux dire : 'A la nuit tombante, lorsque nous mettrons le feu des quatre côtés, pas un d'eux (des Juifs) ne survivra. Mais ces gens-là, je ne les ai pas vus,' ajoute Solomon, 'car je n'avais que mes oreilles tournées vers eux ; mes regards étaient fixés ailleurs.' Le même continue : 'Des femmes qui s'étaient réunies autour de moi, lorsque je suis allé voir ma maison, l'une me demande : "Où est Samuël ?" Pourquoi me demandes-tu pour lui ? Il est à Constantinople, lui

répondis-je ; "Ah, s'il était ici," ajoute la femme, "je lui en aurais dit, moi ! Pour une rosse qu'il avait donnée à mon mari, il a dépouillé toute notre maison à l'aide des Turcs, et a transporté tout notre bien dans la maison qu'il habitait alors." Plus loin ce même Salomon dit : 'Une autre femme saisit l'épouse de Solomon Bahar Moussé et lui cria : "c'est ton mari qui a pris la dot de ma fille ! &c." En nous voyant, dit le témoin, ainsi entourés de femmes réclamant, l'une ceci, l'autre cela, nous avons voulu tout de suite rebrousser chemin. Un gendarme,' termine Salomon, 's'étant aperçu de notre inquiétude, s'approcha de nous, et avec beaucoup d'amabilité il nous offrit de nous accompagner à la maison du Mutévéli.'

"Il est exact que les Juifs, avant d'entrer dans la ville, s'étaient arrêtées près du pont Bakaban, à une demi-heure de distance de la ville. Mais ils y sont restés trente minutes, ou tout au plus une heure, et non pas deux heures comme M. Vénétziani le rapporte. D'ailleurs ils s'y sont arrêtés, non pas pour attendre des gendarmes, mais bien parce que M. Vénétziani les avait prévenus que la Municipalité et les Notables de Karlovo viendraient à leur rencontre ce que, du reste les habitants de Karlovo n'ont pas fait. Toutefois, l'enquête établit que la Municipalité de Karlovo avait accepté avec empressement la proposition de M. Vénétziani de faire en sorte que le marché qui se tenait jusqu'à présent le Samedi, soit reporté à Jeudi, afin que les Israélites puissent aussi en profiter.

"Le nombre de la foule qui s'était graduellement assemblée, est évalué de 500 à 1,000 femmes, enfants, et hommes. Mr. Rahamine Abraams Piadé (déposition No. 8), évalue la foule à 1,500 et Hadji Persiado, un des Juifs les plus sensés, de 200 à 300 femmes et enfants, et le nombre de tous les hommes de 10 à 20. Les enquêtes de Karlovo en évaluent le nombre de 100 à 200 personnes.

"Pour ce qui est de la muraille. Mr. de Vénétziani, dans sa déposition No. 11, dit : 'Cette muraille déjà endommagée a été activée dans la démolition, etc.' Mais cette assertion même est encore entachée d'inexactitude ; car aussi bien les résultats de l'enquête de Karlovo qui s'accordent avec le témoignage de M. Marty, que les dépositions des Israélites eux-mêmes, confirment qu'il n'y a pas eu de muraille détruite ce jour-là, et que la muraille dont il est question dans le rapport de M. Vénétziani a été détruite avant deux ans.

"En fait d'accidents pendant ce tumultie auquel ont pris part des femmes exclusivement, les enquêtes de Karlovo ainsi que celles de Philippopoli établissent :—

"1. Les blessures légères des femmes Gentelio et Perultcha qui disent ne pas avoir vu ni qui avait jeté les pierres ni d'où elles étaient tombées.

"2. L'enlèvement violent d'un tapis à Sarouteha.

"Pour les blessures de ces femmes, dans son rapport en date du 5 Juillet, 1878, No. 18, M. le Docteur Vlado, qui les a examinées, rapporte ceci : 'Péroultcha Mordohai a une marque de blessure au côté droit du front ayant la longueur d'un centimètre à peine ; la blessure ne paraît pas avoir été plus profonde que l'épiderme. Gentelio a une marque de blessure à l'extrémité du sourcil gauche qui paraît avoir eu, avant de se cicatriser, la longueur de deux centimètres à peine et une profondeur qui atteignait, paraît-il, la partie molle du sourcil ; car elle a encore un peu de dureté et d'enflure. Les deux blessures sont probablement causées par des coups de pierres. La première aurait eu besoin d'une semaine pour être guérie et la seconde d'un double espace de temps.'

"Les individus suivants sont prévenus comme coupables :—

"1. Boti Boginoff pour s'être permis des paroles désobligeantes à l'adresse de Présento et d'Abraam Ilzan.

("*Nota.* La famille Boginoff comptait quatre frères, il y a deux ans et demi ; les trois furent pendus sans motif, prétend on ; il n'en reste que Boti, dans une situation matérielle déplorable, car leur fortune, évaluée autrefois à £. T. 5,000, fut entièrement détruite en 1877.)

"2. Lala Sfetkova, pour s'être permis d'arracher aux mains de Sarutcha un tapis qu'elle prétend être le sien.

"3. La femme de Kurhtchi Petko.

"4. La femme de Dulgher Khristo.

"5. La Mère de Ivan Velcoff.

"Toutes les trois pour avoir dit des paroles désobligeantes à Testchi Salomon et à d'autres Juifs.

"6. Tzfantsik, le tailleur, pour les paroles qu'il a prononcées à l'adresse de Hadji Persiado, lequel ne les a pas entendues mais que Rahamine a recueillies.

"7. M. Soppoff, le Secrétaire de la Municipalité, pour certaines réflexions faites en présence de M. D. Vénétziani.

"*Conclusion.*

"Après les enquêtes auxquelles il a été procédé à Karlovo et à Philippopoli, et surtout après la déposition de M. D. Vénétziani lui-même, déposition dont la valeur est singulièrement rehaussée par les paroles suivantes que M. de Vénétziani a prononcées devant moi, dans une conversation privée :—

"'Qu' y pouvais-je? J'avais, d'un côté, à faire à un tas de gens excessivement peureux qui ne voulaient pas entendre raison comme sont nos Juifs de Karlovo, et, d'un autre coté, à une foule agitée de femmes dont je ne comprends pas la langue. Après ces faits la Commission est parvenue à se convaincre que le tumulte, très-regrettable, de Karlovo, ne se serait probablement pas produit si l'on avait pris en considération les douloureux événements qui ont frappé cette ville, et si on avait remis pour quelque temps encore l'envoi à Karlovo de ceux des Juifs qui, sans contesto, n'ont pas eu une conduite irréprochable lors des événements de 1877.

"Le Président de la Commission,
(Signé) "N. VLASSAKOFF.
"Membres,
(Signé) "V. MORFOFF.
"K. BOAZLI.
"J. KARAPTROFF.
"Secrétaire,
(Signé) "S. SCHAMOFF.

"*Philippopoli, le* 19 *Juillet*, 1879."

No. 334.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, herewith, an extract from the "Maritza," giving a list of offences alleged to have been committed by Mussulmans in this town.

The incident therein related in connection with the departure of some Turkish refugees is certainly represented in a wrong light. Three of the refugees were wounded, not by the breaking down of a cart, but in the course of an armed attack which was made upon the party, either by militiamen or "gymnasts," probably by the latter, as a body of them was returning from drill along the road which the refugees followed.

The inquiry which was immediately instituted by the Governor-General has not yet resulted in the discovery of the offenders.

The extract from the "Philippopolis," which formed the inclosure to my despatch No. 159 of yesterday's date gives, I have reason to believe, a correct version of the incident in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 334.

Extract from the "Maritza" of August 7, 1879.

AVANT-HIER un Turc demanda à un gamin de rue Musulman de lui apporter un seau d'eau. Le gamin n'ayant pas obtempéré à cet ordre, le Turc le prit par les cheveux et l'égorgea en présence d'une foule de monde. L'assassin fut immédiatement appréhendé au corps par un gendarme, témoin de cette scène d'horreur; mais celui-ci faillit payer de sa vie l'accomplissement de son devoir, car un autre Turc courut sur lui avec un couteau Circassien à la main. Il manqua son coup et les deux Turcs purent être amenés à la Préfecture de Police.

Le même jour deux miliciens passant par le marché de grains, furent assaillis par un Turc, le yatagan à la main. Heureusement l'arme ne pénétra que les vêtements de l'un des miliciens. L'assassin fut immédiatement arrêté, et livré à la police.

Dimanche passé des réfugiés Turcs passant en chariot par le Faubourg de Karchinka pour rentrer dans leur village, un des chariots se brisa et blessa tous ceux qui s'y trouvaient. Deux Effendis, témoins de cet accident, en profitèrent pour engager les victimes à aller se plaindre à la Commission Européenne, comme ayant été blessées par des miliciens et des sociétaires gymnastiques. Cette nouvelle a fait beaucoup de bruit en ville. L'enquête à laquelle il a été immédiatement procédé, a prouvé jusqu'à l'évidence que cette nouvelle est le résultat d'une manœuvre des Effendis oisifs venus exprès dans notre ville pour y provoquer des désordres.

Vendredi passé deux sous-officiers, Dragoé Dontcheff et Nicolas Petroff, connus de tous leurs camarades pour leur modestie, et par leur bonne conduite, retournaient le soir dans leur quartier. Près de Nové-Mahalé ils furent assaillis par une foule de Turcs, qui les aurait infailliblement écharpés si une patrouille de cavalerie, entendant leur sifflet, n'était venus à temps au secours. A l'apparition de la patrouille, les femmes Turques sortant des maisons se mirent à jeter des cris si perçants que tout le quartier en fut épouvanté. Après avoir crié pendant une dizaine de minutes pour faire accroire que leurs maisons ont été attaquées, les femmes fatiguées se turent, et la patrouille put procéder à l'arrestation de quelques-uns des assaillants Turcs.

Avant-hier, Mardi, dans le Café Moskwa, une trentaine de Grecs ivres [*sic*] ont cherché à provoquer des désordres préparés depuis quatre jours. Mais grâce à l'intelligente intervention du Commandant de place cette tentative échoua.

No. 335.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 166.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, August* 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of a correspondence which took place lately between the temporary President of the European Commission and Aleko Pasha, on the subject of the administration of the posts and telegraphs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 335.

M. de Braunschweig to Aleko Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général, *Philippopoli, le* 25 *Juillet*, 1879.

À LA date du $\frac{13}{25}$ Juin dernier votre Excellence a adressé à mon prédécesseur une lettre, par laquelle elle demandait l'avis de la Commission Européenne sur les dispositions du Statut Organique ayant trait au service des postes et des télégraphes. La Commission s'étant dans ses deux dernières séances occupée de la question, et ayant formulé une déclaration dans laquelle se trouve formulée sa doctrine, j'ai l'honneur d'envoyer ci-joint à votre Excellence trois exemplaires de ce document.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne.

Inclosure 2 in No. 335.

Aleko Pasha to M. de Braunschweig.

M. le Président, *Philippopoli, le* $\frac{15}{30}$ *Juillet*, 1879.

JE m'empresse de vous accuser réception de votre pli du 28 Juillet dernier (?), contenant trois exemplaires de l'avis que la Commission Européenne a formulée dans ses deux dernières séances en réponse à ma lettre consultative du $\frac{13}{25}$ Juin dernier, relative au service des postes et des télégraphes de la Roumélie Orientale.

Tenant à me faire une idée exacte de l'esprit qui a guidé MM. les Commissaires dans la discussion et dans l'acceptation de cette "doctrine," je vous saurais gré, M. le Président, si vous vouliez bien me faire transmettre copie des comptes-rendus

des séances de la Commission dans laquelle la susdite doctrine a été débattue et adoptée.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. VOGORIDI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 335.

M. de Braunschweig to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le 31 *Juillet*, 1879.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

EN réponse à votre lettre du $\frac{18}{30}$ courant, j'ai l'honneur d'envoyer ci-joint à votre Excellence un exemplaire des comptes-rendus des séances Nos. 74 et 75, dans lesquelles a été traitée la question des postes et télégraphes. J'ajouterai que même si votre Excellence ne m'en avait pas exprimé le désir je n'aurais pas manqué de vous communiquer les dits documents, la connaissance de ceux-ci me paraissant en effet indispensable pour bien apprécier l'esprit dont la Commission Européenne s'est inspirée dans ses décisions.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne.

Inclosure 4 in No. 335.

M. de Braunschweig to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le 31 *Juillet*, 1879.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

J'AI l'honneur d'envoyer ci-joint à votre Excellence deux déclarations qui ont été votées par la Commission Européenne dans sa séance d'hier. Je prends la liberté de faire remarquer à votre Excellence que ces déclarations, ayant été adoptées à l'unanimité de voix, les "doctrines" qui s'y trouvent développées doivent être considérées comme obligations pour l'administration de la province.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne.

No. 336.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 167.)
Philippopolis, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

THE inclosed extracts from this day's "Philippoupolis" relate to the continued ill-treatment of Turks and Jews by Bulgarians, with the alleged connivance or toleration, in two instances, of the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 336.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis."

UNE dizaine de familles Juives, à leur arrivée à Yéni-Zaghra et faute d'habitations libres, ont été obligées, pendant quelques jours, de loger à la belle étoile.

Un Israélite, ému de leurs souffrances, a loué pour 160 piastres un vaste local et y a installé ses coreligionnaires.

Ces jours derniers, le Sous-Préfet de Yéni-Zaghra a fait appeler cet homme généreux et lui a dit: "Qui vous a permis de louer le bâtiment où vous avez installé vos coreligionnaires?" "Los paras," a répondu le Juif.

On nous raconte que le Sous-Préfet, furieux de tant d'audace, l'a condamné à recevoir 50 coups de kamtchik.

Mais le Commissaire de Police de la ville s'est carrément refusé à faire administrer cette injuste punition.

Le Sous-Préfet, ne pouvant faire exécuter sa sentence, a eu alors recours à une mesure bien plus injuste encore. Il a condamné les susdites familles à quitter Yéni-Zaghra dans l'espace de dix jours, parce que telle était la volonté du peuple.

A Kézanlik, trois femmes de T—— Bey allaient, il y a quelque jours, prendre de l'eau à une fontaine, probablement un peu éloignée du quartier, quand quelques malfaiteurs les ont accostées et, par de pressantes intimidations, les ont forcées à céder à leurs coupables désirs.

M. Ousouroff cumule les emplois. A celui de Percepteur, à Cavacli, il vient d'ajouter celui de Juge. Voici ce qui s'est passé ces jours derniers:

Un paysan qui avait traversé avec ses chevaux la propriété d'autrui, a été appelé devant Monsieur le dit Percepteur et condamné par celui-ci à payer une amende de $7\frac{1}{2}$ roubles. Remarquez que le propriétaire des champs traversés n'avait pas porté plainte.

Nous ne croyons pas que M. Ousouroff ait été chargé, en même temps que Percepteur, des fonctions de Juge de Paix de la localité.

Le Musulman Abdi Tchaouch habite à Oustina, dans la maison de son beau-frère Tohakir-Oglou Moustafa. La semaine dernière il a dû passer les nuits seul, parce que son parent avait été obligé de rester dehors pour le dépiquage de sa moisson.

Vers les 6 heures de la nuit, à la Turque, Abdi a été surpris, dans son sommeil, par six malfaiteurs qui, n'ayant rien de mieux à faire, ont jugé de l'emmener, les mains liées, loin dans la campagne. Une fois arrivés à un endroit choisi d'avance, ils lui ont rasé la barbe et l'ont ensuite battu jusqu'au point de lui casser les reins. Après cet exploit, ils sont partis en laissant leur victime dans un état désespéré.

Il vient de se commettre à Carlovo un crime célèbre qui fait frémir d'horreur. Un Bulgare, nous ignorons dans quelles circonstances et pour quels motifs, a tranché la tête à une femme Musulmane. L'assassin a été, nous dit-on, élargi après un emprisonnement de trois jours. Nous nous refusons à croire à une aussi grande bonté de la part de l'autorité.

Une partie du Rhodope est en flammes. Depuis le $\frac{19}{31}$ Juillet dernier, c'est-à-dire depuis dix-huit jours, les belles forêts connues sous le nom de Yaprovo, et appartenant au couvent Grec de St. Pantéleïmon, sont presque entièrement détruites. Nous ignorons encore quelle est la main coupable qui a allumé cet effroyable incendie, et occasionné ainsi cette immense catastrophe; mais ce que nous pouvons malheureusement constater c'est que les hommes envoyés, tant du Monastère que des autres localités du voisinage, n'ont pu se rendre sur le lieu du sinistre, parce que les Bulgares de Yaprovo les ont obligés à rebrousser chemin.

Nous faisons appel à l'activité de M. le Directeur des Travaux Publics, qui ne saurait trop se presser pour sauver, par des mesures promptes et efficaces, ce qui reste encore de ces magnifiques forêts.

M. Vulcovitch, sachant ce qu'occasionne à un pays la destruction de bois, ne manquera pas, croyons-nous, de prendre immédiatement de sérieuses mesures pour arrêter les progrès de l'incendie dont nous parlons.

No. 337.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 168.)
Philippopolis, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE spoken both to Aleko Pasha and to the Secretary-General on the subject of the impending delimitation of electoral districts. It appears that the Governor-General had lost no time in confirming the report of the Commission appointed for the purpose of advising his Excellency on that subject, and that the local Government is being urged to issue an immediate Decree for the elections to the Provincial Assembly.

Aleko Pasha has, however, promised me that he will now cause the Report to be published, and that he will allow an interval of a week or ten days to elapse between such publication and the issue of the Decree.

Before speaking to his Excellency, I made a declaration at the last meeting of the Commission, to the effect that the Governor-General would alone be responsible for the delimitation of the electoral districts, and I have since done my best to

impress upon the Governor-General the gravity of the responsibility which he thus incurs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 338.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, August 11, 1879.*

ON the 9th instant I had the honour to address to your Lordship the following telegram:—

"Disastrous fire, caused by accidental explosion of spirit, occurred here yesterday, Friday. Began at 6 in the evening, and lasted throughout night. Christian and best quarter of the town, the bazaars, principal hotels, German Consulate, Catholic Church, and several mosques destroyed. Loss inestimable at present, but the calamity immense. Would suggest that appeal for assistance be made to the British public."

As far as is yet ascertained, 388 dwelling-houses, 154 shops, 18 warehouses, the public baths, the Catholic Church and school buildings, a portion of the Orthodox school buildings, a Jewish synagogue, and five mosques have been destroyed. About 15,000 persons are left houseless, and the greater part of them have lost almost everything they possessed. The chief sufferers are the Orthodox Christians and the Jews, and many heretofore well-to-do persons are reduced to penury. The Austrian Government is also a heavy loser, as large depôts of grain, flour, &c., which were stored in the mosques and other buildings, have been destroyed. It is quite impossible at present to even approximately estimate the total loss, but it is supposed to be several millions of florins.

As stated in my telegram, the origin of the fire was an accidental explosion of spirits of wine, which happened during the visit of an excise officer to the cellar of a certain Christian merchant named Sokolovic; but it has not been ascertained exactly how the spirit was ignited. There was a considerable wind blowing at the time, and the fire spread with the greatest rapidity, and the wooden roofs were so dry after the long drought that has prevailed in this province that a mere spark falling on one of them was sufficient to set the house in flames. All efforts to control the fire were ineffectual, and the small body of firemen organized since the Austrian occupation, with their eight or ten hand fire-engines, was perfectly inadequate to cope with such an extensive conflagration. The fire only ceased to spread when it reached the river and other open spaces, and now, on the third day, the ruins are in many places still burning. I have not heard that any lives were lost, but several soldiers were severely injured during their endeavours to arrest the progress of the fire.

It is almost impossible to exaggerate the extent of this calamity. His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, on hearing of the conflagration, immediately sent 10,000 fl. from his private purse for the sufferers, and a Committee of Relief to collect subscriptions and distribute bread, &c., to the most needy, has been formed in this town. His Royal Highness the Duke of Wurtemberg has headed the list by a subscription of 1,000 fl. Mere local assistance, however, will be quite inadequate to meet the necessities of the case.

The price of building materials, which has already increased at least fourfold since the Austrian occupation, will now reach such a figure that it will be beyond the means of ninety-nine persons out of a hundred to reconstruct their houses this year, and even had they the means there would probably be a lack of material. There are no large depôts of timber, &c., in the country, no rapid means of transport to bring it from elsewhere, and very little time now remains for building before winter. Ever since the entry of the Austrians the greatest difficulty has been experienced in finding lodging for the troops, the officials, and the increased population of this town, and now without a very large and immediate outlay of money the greatest misery and distress will prevail during the coming winter.

In my telegram I ventured to suggest that an appeal for assistance be made to the public in England. I trust that your Lordship may consider the calamity sufficiently great to warrant such an appeal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 339.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 51.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August 9, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of Protocol No. 21 of the proceedings of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 339.

Protocole No. 21.—Séance tenue à Thérapia au Dragomanat de France, le 24 Juillet, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp,
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero.
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Schneur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pasha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

M. le Général Hamley rappelle à M. le Colonel Bogolubow l'engagement précédemment pris par lui de remettre le 28 Juin à la Commission les levés de la zone-frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Macédoine; il constate que cet engagement n'a été qu'imparfaitement tenu, et demande à connaître l'époque à laquelle la Commission recevra les cartes qui lui manquent encore.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow, rejetant sur les autorités Turques la responsabilité des retards survenus, rappelle l'invitation, adressée à la Sublime Porte, au mois d'Avril 1879, par son Excellence le Prince Labanoff, de faire cesser l'opposition des autorités locales à l'exécution des travaux topographiques Russes; il rappelle en second lieu la demande faite par lui dans les premiers jours de Juin au Commissaire Turc d'envoyer à la frontière un officier muni de tous les pouvoirs nécessaires pour assurer la poursuite desdits travaux. Ni la promesse du Gouvernement Ottoman, ni le télégramme de son Excellence Tahir Pacha n'ont entraîné une modification d'attitude des autorités Turques: des incidents regrettables se sont produits, des postes Turcs ont tiré sur deux officiers topographes Russes. Il était donc manifestement impossible de lever la partie de la zone frontière occupée par les troupes Ottomanes. Le travail a pu être seulement repris après la remise par son Excellence Tahir Pacha des sauf-conduits délivrés aux topographes Russes par les autorités d'Egri-Palanka et par Suleiman Pacha. L'engagement contracté par le Colonel Bogolubow de livrer les cartes en temps utile était nécessairement subordonné à la condition qu'aucune autorité étran-

gère ne viendrait paralyser les topographes Russes. C'est ce qui cependant a eu lieu. Il faut maintenant attendre deux mois les plans en cours d'exécution.

M. le Général Hamley lui demandant si les topographes Russes lèvent uniquement la zone du terrain utile à la Commission, M. le Colonel Bogolubow répond que sans doute le programme de leurs travaux comporte l'exécution d'une carte de la Bulgarie et qu'il leur faut conséquemment ne laisser subsister aucun blanc sur les planchettes, mais il prétend, au point de vue technique, qu'on devrait agir de même si l'on voulait simplement un levé de la zone-frontière.

M. le Général Hamley insistant pour qu'une démarche soit tentée auprès de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Russie en vue de faire presser la marche desdits travaux topographiques, le Commissaire de Russie déclare tenir du Général Jarnefelt, Chef du service topographique, la date de deux mois; il croit donc que la démarche proposée n'aurait aucun effet utile; il déclare d'ailleurs que le retard apporté à la remise des cartes ne cache aucune arrière-pensée.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne croit être l'interprète de tous ses collègues en remerciant le Gouvernement Russe de l'aide qu'il a donnée à la Commission en lui communiquant les cartes dressées par ses agents. Mais comme Commissaire Français, il conteste absolument au point de vue technique la nécessité de couvrir de dessin une planchette, quand on a besoin d'une simple bande de terrain, et partant la nécessité d'un délai de deux mois pour la confection des levers réguliers attendus par la Commission. Pour tenir compte des désirs exprimés par toutes les Puissances et par la Russie elle-même, de voir la Commission terminer le plus promptement possible ses travaux, rien n'empêcherait d'ailleurs, d'opérer comme dans la Dobroudja. Il s'agit uniquement de fournir à la Turquie et à la Principauté les moyens de reconnaître facilement la frontière donnée par le Traité de Berlin. Il ne lui semble donc pas nécessaire de compléter par un dessin la description donnée par l'instrument diplomatique, dans toutes les régions où la ligne-frontière se confond avec une ligne naturelle du terrain facilement reconnaissable pour tous; on pourrait se contenter dans d'autres régions d'un levé expédié, et il suffirait alors de demander au Général Jarnefelt deux topographes pour effectuer la reconnaissance de certaines parties de la zone-frontière.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow constate qu'on agite pour la première fois devant lui la question de recourir à des levés expédiés pour suppléer à l'absence de levés réguliers. Il n'a pu transmettre au Général Jarnefelt que les désirs précédemment exprimés par la Commission: il ne s'est donc entretenu avec lui que de l'achèvement des levés réguliers. Il regrette qu'on n'ait pas plutôt manifesté le désir d'avoir des levers de reconnaissance. Il est d'ailleurs prêt à aviser le Général de la nouvelle disposition d'esprit de ses collègues. Il ne saurait toutefois promettre que sa démarche aura le résultat attendu par quelques-uns. La besogne a été répartie entre les topographes échelonnés le long de la frontière, ceux-ci sont déjà à l'œuvre, et comme il faut au moins une semaine pour qu'on corresponde de Sophia avec eux, il est impossible de songer à une nouvelle dislocation des topographes. On ne peut, d'ailleurs, pas dire s'ils achèveraient beaucoup plus tôt leur tâche en travaillant dans des conditions nouvelles qu'en poursuivant leurs errements actuels.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne répond qu'au départ de Verbitza, M. le Colonel Bogolubow était sans inquiétude sur l'achèvement des cartes Russes de la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Macédoine dans les délais indiqués par lui à la Commission. Il n'y a donc pas eu lieu de discuter l'opportunité de recourir à des levés expédiés. L'on avait, au contraire, une telle confiance dans l'exécution de la promesse faite, qu'on s'est privé volontairement des services précieux des officiers topographes Anglais et Ottomans.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp dit qu'il a précédemment assuré son Gouvernement que la Commission travaillerait sur les levers réguliers dressés par les topographes Russes, et que le concours de topographes Autrichiens était par suite inutile. Si la Commission modifiait sa ligne de conduite, il se verrait dans l'obligation de demander des instructions à son Gouvernement.

Sur la proposition de *M. le Général Hamley* de passer à l'examen des cartes pour se rendre compte de l'importance des lacunes, *le Président* invite les Commissaires à considérer successivement chacune des parties de la frontière et il relit le cinquième alinéa de l'Article II du Traité. Il constate que la Commission ne possède aucune carte de la ligne de partage entre les bassins du Mesta-Karasu et du Struma-Karasu, mais il croit que cette ligne est assez reconnaissable sur le terrain pour qu'on ne conserve aucune hésitation sur sa position et pour qu'il ne soit par conséquent pas nécessaire d'en posséder le lever.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp dit qu'effectivement la ligne de partage se dessine d'une façon très-nette sur le terrain. Toutefois, comme les noms donnés par cette partie de la Carte Autrichienne sont souvent inexacts, il lui paraît indispensable que des opérateurs relèvent avec des instruments la position des principaux sommets, et complètent leur dessin par un levé expédié de la partie supérieure des deux versants. Il tiendrait notamment à retrouver dans ce dessin la passe que franchit le sentier qui relie Samakov et Rilo Monastir au bassin du Mesta-Karasu.

M. le Président, achevant la lecture du cinquième alinéa, invite la Commission à donner son sentiment sur la situation et l'existence de l'ancienne frontière administrative du Sandjak de Sophia.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow demande que la Commission choisisse sans plus tarder, la ligne directrice à laquelle elle conformera le tracé de la frontière, et qu'elle se prononce entre la ligne de partage des eaux et l'ancienne limite du sandjak.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp ne croit pas possible qu'on base le travail de délimitation sur l'ancienne frontière du sandjak. Il explique, en effet, que d'après les renseignements concordants recueillis à Egri Palanka et à Kustendil, il est toujours possible d'indiquer à quel district appartient un village donné; mais il n'existe pas, à proprement parler, des limites entre les territoires des villages: les habitants du moins sont incapables d'en indiquer. Il serait dans ces conditions impossible aux topographes de recueillir des mêmes habitants des renseignements exacts sur la frontière administrative. Les membres de la Délégation de l'Ouest ont eu toutefois occasion de reconnaître que le Sandjak de Sophia englobait des territoires au sud et à l'ouest de la ligne-frontière figurée sur la Carte Autrichienne, tandis qu'inversement des villages situés dans la vallée de la Lepnitza se trouvaient dépendre d'Egri Palanka. La frontière administrative du sandjak, si elle pouvait être retrouvée sur le terrain, s'écarterait donc notablement du tracé de la Carte Autrichienne. Mais il semble même résulter des explications fournies par les autorités d'Egri Palanka comme par celles de Kustendil que le territoire de chacun des districts contenait des enclaves appartenant à l'autre. Pour toutes ces raisons, on doit s'abstenir de prendre pour ligne directrice l'ancienne frontière administrative.

Après un échange d'observations entre les divers Commissaires, la Commission adopte à l'unanimité la résolution suivante:—

"Considérant que la limite de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia, visée par le Traité de Berlin, ne saurait être retrouvée d'une façon précise sur le terrain, et que dans les parties où on pourrait la tracer sur renseignements elle s'écarterait sensiblement de la ligne dessinée sur la Carte Autrichienne, et considérée par les Plénipotentiaires.

"Voulant d'ailleurs se conformer à l'esprit plutôt qu'au texte même du Traité.

"La Commission adopte en principe qu'elle choisira pour ligne-frontière la ligne topographique naturelle qui se rapproche le plus de la ligne marquée sur la Carte Autrichienne comme limite du Sandjak de Sophia."

La Commission poursuit ensuite l'examen des cartes, et reconnaît que certaines feuilles donnent en entier la zone-frontière, que d'autres n'offrent que la partie de la zone située sur le territoire Bulgare, et, enfin, qu'aucune ne comprend la région au sud-est de la grande route de Kustendil à Egri Palanka.

Le Président, résumant les explications précédemment échangées entre les Commissaires, invite le Colonel Bogolubow à transmettre les désirs de la Commission au Général Jarnefelt par la voie la plus rapide, à lui demander de faire dresser un simple lever expédié de la grande chaîne entre les bassins du Mesta-Karasu et du Struma-Karasu, la profondeur totale de la zone-frontière étant limitée à 5 kilom., et à le prier de hâter le plus possible la livraison des levers attendus.

M. le Général Hamley prie, en outre, le Colonel Bogobulow de demander la date approximative de l'achèvement du travail.

M. le Colonel Bogobulow promet de faire les démarches nécessaires, mais il craint que la Commission ne conserve des illusions sur leurs conséquences pour l'accélération du travail. Aussi eût-il préféré pour sa part que la Commission s'ajournât à la mi-Septembre, du moment qu'elle reconnaissait l'impossibilité de terminer plus tôt son œuvre. Cette mesure lui semblerait d'autant plus opportune, que, selon lui, la Commission doit joindre à son travail un plan exact du Danube donnant la situation des diverses îles par rapport au thalweg, et que, d'après ses ordres, on exécutera dans le courant du mois d'Août, c'est-à-dire pendant les basses eaux, un nivellement du lit du fleuve.

M. le Commandant Lemoyne conteste qu'il soit nécessaire de joindre un plan du Danube à la description de la frontière nord de la Bulgarie; le thalweg étant une

ligne essentiellement mobile, il estime que sa détermination, toutes les fois que besoin sera, doit être confiée à une Commission Roumano-Bulgare.

M. le Colonel Ripp ne partage pas cette manière de voir, et il fonde son sentiment sur la détermination du thalweg du Rhin entre la France et le Grand Duché de Bade effectuée par les soins du Congrès de Vienne. Il ajoute que, de son côté, il demandera à son Gouvernement communication des cartes de la Compagnie de Navigation du Danube.

En raison de l'heure avancée, *le Président* renvoie à la prochaine séance la continuation de la discussion, et il propose à la Commission d'adopter l'ordre du jour suivant:—

"1. Discussion de la proposition tendant à substituer pour la frontière nord de la Bulgarie le thalweg à la rive droite du Danube;

"2. Discussion de la proposition du Colonel Bogobulow touchant l'établissement d'une carte du Danube;

"3. Compte-rendu des travaux de la Commission du 13 Mai au 22 Juin;

"4. Fixation de la frontière reconnue par la Délégation de l'Est;

"5. Fixation, dans les limites possibles, de la frontière reconnue par la Délégation de l'Ouest;

"6. Lecture du projet d'instrument diplomatique."

Après l'adoption de cet ordre du jour, *M. le Colonel Ripp*, faisant allusion à une conversation échangée l'an dernier entre deux membres du Corps Diplomatique, demande que la Commission se réunisse dans un local autre que le Drogmanat de France.

Le Président répond qu'il sera fait droit à cette réclamation, et qu'il fera connaître ultérieurement à chaque Commissaire le lieu de la prochaine séance, dont la date est ensuite fixée au Samedi 26 Juillet.

La séance est levée à 5 heures et demie.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARCHER.
D. JONES.
F. VICINO PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

No. 340.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Bujukdéré, August 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the twenty-sixth séance of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission was held yesterday at Therapia, when the following proceedings took place:—

As mentioned in my despatch No. 47, it had been judged expedient to embody the decision of the frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia in a separate act, which, as well as maps of the same frontier with the boundary traced on them, were now laid before the Commission for signature. The Russian Commissioner said that he desired first carefully to compare the Act with the map, and, therefore, requested that the signing might be postponed to Thursday.

The "thalweg" having been substituted for the "rive droite" of the Danube in Article 11 of Treaty of Berlin by previous vote, the question of how it should be fixed came before the Commission. The Austrian Commissioner had procured a map of the Danube, and was desirous of using that and a Russian map, said to be forthcoming, for the laying down of the line of the thalweg. As, according to my views, previously stated (despatch No. 47) any attempt of the Commission to fix the thalweg

on a map would be found useless and probably embarrassing, and as nothing transpired to alter these views, I made another proposition to the effect that the frontier in question should be the thalweg as recognized and determined by the States bordering on the river there, and modified from time to time according to the changes of the stream. In voting, the Austrian proposition was lost, and the other was carried. The Russian and German Commissioners, after voting for the first, desired to vote on the second with the majority.

I have news of the 9th instant from Major Ardagh, who expected to finish that portion left incomplete in the Russian map, which his party is engaged on, in a few days, and he proposed then to undertake the completing of the other and less important portion, which he thought could be done before the end of the month, and which I have desired him to do after sending the first completed portion to the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

P.S.—A telegram from Major Ardagh informs me that the Bulgarian authorities do not allow his party to pass the frontier. Consul Palgrave will, therefore, be again requested to urge the Bulgarian Government to facilitate the work. Major Ardagh says noting of having been fired on, which telegrams from other sources assert to have been done.

E. B. H.

No. 341.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 10, 1879.*

MY despatches Nos. 50, 55, and 57 will have placed your Lordship in possession of all the information, up to a certain date, with regard to the disputes which have arisen on the Russo-Turkish Commission dealing with the delimitation between the Black Sea and Karaourgan.

In continuation of those despatches I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in accordance with the instructions conveyed in a letter from his Excellency Carathéodory Pasha (a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 57 of the 8th July, 1879), the Ottoman Representatives on the Boundary Commission submitted, on the 8th July, their amended trace of the frontier between Artwin and Nariman, accompanied by a "Mémoire explicatif," for ultimate transmission to the Russian Government.

That Mémoire, a copy of which I herewith inclose for your Lordship's information, appears to me correct in its facts, logical and even indisputable in its arguments, being based on a clear conception of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

To that Mémoire, although upwards of a month has elapsed since it was forwarded, the Russian Government has vouchsafed no answer, and certain circumstances of recent occurrence would tend to show that the Russians purpose avoiding any further discussion of the question at issue between the respective Boundary Commissioners.

The data which have led me to draw this inference are—

1. An important statement voluntarily made in the course of conversation by my Russian colleague, to the effect that a telegram had been recently received from Russia that the Government had declined to admit the validity of the objections which the Porte had raised to the project of frontier originally drawn up by the Boundary Commission, that is to say, refused to accept the amended project of the Turkish Representatives with respect to the frontier between Artwin and Nariman.

2. That General Stobnitzky, the Russian Commissioner for the Boundary, left Constantinople on the 6th instant for the frontier, to meet a large party of topographers now on their way from Tiflis.

3. That the Turkish Commissioner, Chekib Boy, has also received orders to proceed without delay to Batoum, his instructions being to carry out the demarcation "between the Black Sea and Artwin."

The Porte had been induced to accede to this arrangement at the strong solicitation of the Russian Ambassador, whose object is probably to get the Commissioners away from Constantinople, under the pretext of demarcating only that portion of the

frontier in respect to which the two Governments are in agreement, and then, the Commissioners being away and the demarcation commenced, to break the news that the Russian Government holds to the original signed project.

Assuming these events to take place, and the delimitation commenced, the Porte, with the signed project in existence, would then find itself in an embarrassing and inextricable situation, having given an implied consent to the project by the mere fact of having commenced to carry out its provisions.

Knowing that Her Majesty's Government sets great store on the execution in its integrity of the Treaty of Berlin; seeing that the project of frontier as it now stands, should the decision of the Russian Government to reject the amended trace be correctly reported and be persevered in, is at variance with that Treaty; with Prince Lobanoff's language to Sir Henry Layard on the 21st ultimo fresh in my recollection; feeling that the Turkish Commissioner on the frontier, being alone and in the clutches of the Russian Commissioner, might be coerced, or forced by circumstances beyond his control, into demarcating the whole frontier; I conceived it to be my duty to address a letter to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador (copy inclosed), pointing out that the Porte did not seem to have sufficiently considered the possible consequences of permitting their Representative to proceed to the frontier to carry out on the ground, even in part, a project which they had rejected, and an important amendment of which was still under reference; and submitting, for his Excellency's consideration, the expediency of using his influence with the Porte to countermand the departure of their Commissioner.

There was another reason for detaining the Ottoman Commissioner which I could not well include in my despatch, but which I mentioned privately to Sir Henry Layard, viz., that Chehab Bey has invariably kept me informed of what is going on behind the scenes, and has sent me copies of the private correspondence which has passed between the Porte and the Seraskeriate with reference to the Boundary Commission, advantages of which his departure would deprive me.

I trust that my proceedings will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 341.

Memorandum.

(Secret.)

(APRÈS avoir cité l'Article LVIII du Traité de Berlin.)

D'après cet Article, la frontière, après avoir traversé la Rivière Tchoroukh, doit se diriger en ligne droite, en passant à l'est d'Asmichen et près d'Olti, laissant cette ville à la Russie, jusqu'à un certain point au sud de Nariman.

C'est l'esprit du Traité, qui est conforme même à la carte Russe en petite échelle dont on s'est servi au Congrès de Berlin et dont le croquis est joint au présent.

En examinant cette carte on voit clairement que la ligne de frontière, après avoir passé la Rivière Tchoroukh, va en ligne droite au sud de Nariman.

On a mentionné dans cet Article Asmichen et Olti, parce que ce sont les deux seules localités qui se trouvent près de la ligne de frontière.

Donc, il ne sera pas conforme ni au Traité, ni à la dite carte, si la ligne de frontière, après avoir passé le Tchoroukh, aille vers Asmichen et de là en ligne droite au sud de Nariman, comme comprennent MM. les Délégués Russes, parce que si ça serait comme ça, la ligne de frontière ne serait pas une ligne droite, mais deux lignes formant un angle près d'Asmichen.

La direction normale de la frontière, d'après le susdit Article et la carte mentionnée, étant en ligne droite, il sera naturellement difficile d'appliquer cette ligne sur le terrain; mais si le Gouvernement Russe accepte la direction normale en ligne droite, on peut dévier de cette ligne d'un côté à l'autre et appliquer le système de compensation sans s'éloignant trop de cette ligne et en cherchant autant que possible la frontière naturelle.

Si on transporte le tracé de frontière indiqué sur la carte Russe dont on s'est servi à Berlin, sur une autre carte topographique sur une grande échelle, récemment levée par les topographes Russes, la ligne de frontière sera celle qui est tracée en rouge, laquelle présente la ligne de frontière normale déterminée par le Congrès de Berlin.

Si le Gouvernement Russe voudrait appliquer sur cette ligne rouge le système de compensation, nous proposons la ligne tracée par la couleur jaune, laquelle présente le système de compensation équitable pour les deux Gouvernements respectifs.

(Signé) NÉDJIB.
ALI.
FÉYZI.
OSMAN.
EDHÉM.
CHÉHAB.

Le 8 Juillet, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 341.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, August 8*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that General Stebnitzky, the Russian Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan, left Constantinople for the frontier on the 6th instant, and the Turkish Commissioner, Colonel Chehab Bey, informed me to-day that he had received orders from the Porte to proceed to Batoum without delay.

As the project of frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan, submitted by the Russo-Turkish Commission to their respective Governments for approval, has never been ratified by the Porte, in fact, has been rejected by the latter as being at variance with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, it is difficult to explain this last action on the part of the Russian Government, except on the hypothesis that it intends by the removal of its Commissioner to avoid any further repeating of the discussion of this part of the frontier.

This hypothesis is in part confirmed by the voluntary admission of General Zelenoy at an interview yesterday, at which he informed me that the Russian Government had declined to admit the validity of the objections which the Porte had raised to the project of frontier as originally drawn up by the Commission.

As this decision on the part of Russia, provided that General Zelenoy's statement be consistent with his instructions, and provided also such a course be persevered in, demonstrates an intention to set at nought the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, I have conceived it my duty to address your Excellency on this subject with a view to your taking such action with the Porte as may seem to your Excellency's judgment most fitting.

To this end it may be perhaps desirable to remind your Excellency of the present state of the negotiations with regard to the delimitation of that part of the frontier which comes within the competence of the Russo-Turkish Commission.

About the 20th April last the said Commission submitted for the approval of their respective Governments a certain project of frontier, but the Turkish Government, finding that this project in regard to certain points was inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the Treaty of Berlin, returned it to their Commissioners for reconsideration.

At a subsequent meeting of the Commission the Turkish Representatives, taking as a commencement that part of the frontier between the point south of Artwin and the point south of Nariman, proposed a new trace for this section. The new trace, while rectifying the faults in the interpretation of the Treaty which had marked the original project, was, in my judgment, perfectly in accord with the intentions of the Signatory Powers, and the Turks, in putting forward their amended trace, did no more than claim a boundary, to which they were justly and rightly entitled.

The Russian Commissioner declined to accept this new proposition of the Turkish Representatives, and, in lieu thereof, suggested some very slight and unimportant modification of the original trace, while at the same time evading the main question at issue.

The trace, as proposed to be modified by the Russian concession, was still open to the objection that the frontier would remain at variance with the terms of the Treaty.

No agreement between the Commissioners being possible, neither side being inclined to give way, it was arranged that they should each trace their amended frontiers on a map, and that this map, with the pleas in support of their respective projects, should be submitted for the decision of the Governments concerned.

The Turks submitted their amended map and their pleas for transmission to the

Russian Government on the 8th July, since which date nothing more has been heard, but, if we are to draw the most ordinary inferences, the departure from Constantinople of General Stebnitzky, coupled with General Zelenoy's verbal admission, would seem to show that the Russians have simply and abruptly broken off all further negotiations on the subject.

The Porte, I am informed, has as yet received no intimation that the Russian Government declines to reconsider the project of frontier; otherwise I can hardly believe that it would permit its Commissioner to leave Constantinople until it has had time to consider the grounds, and reply, if necessary, to the arguments of the Russian refusal, or until the project of frontier has been definitively ratified in its entirety.

It is true that the Turkish Commissioner has instructions to limit his work of delimitation to that part of the frontier between the Black Sea and Artwin, a section of the boundary which appears to have been laid down fairly in conformity with the Treaty, and to the trace of which the Turkish Government has raised no objection.

The Porte, therefore, may be expected to urge that it is only right to avoid the evils which may arise from any further delay in the settlement of that part of the frontier line, in which it finds itself in agreement with the Russian Government.

But, as I have already pointed out, the true reason for the departure of General Stebnitzky is, in all probability, to be found in the determination of the Russian Government to avoid further argument on the trace of the frontier between Artwin and Nariman, and to force on the Turks the acceptance of the delimitation embodied in a project, which has been already rejected by the Porte, on the important ground of its deviation from the letter and spirit of the Treaty of Berlin.

Under these circumstances, and as the instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Government enjoin me to exercise the greatest vigilance with regard to any violation of the Treaty of Berlin, I beg respectfully to submit, for your Excellency's consideration, the expediency of bringing the interpretation herein suggested of General Stebnitzky's departure to the notice of the Porte, so that it may be warned in time of the danger of letting its Commissioner commence the delimitation of the frontier in accordance with a project which is at variance in important points with the Treaty of Berlin.

Another objection which I conceive against the departure of the Ottoman Commissioner is, that the question with regard to the exact position of the point west of Karaourgan, which is to be the terminal and initial point respectively of the two Commissions, is under reference to the Governments, and that until this question is settled the frontier of the Russo-Turkish Commission is incomplete, and is liable even to modification in the latter part of its trace.

As this question would appear by the last advices from St. Petersburgh to be under discussion, and to be getting ripe for decision, the absence of the Ottoman Commissioner, in the event of any references being made to those between whom the arguments took place, might entail great inconvenience and delay in the work of the Tripartite Commission.

Moreover, Colonel Cholmh Bey is the only member of the Commission who has local knowledge of the district in which the frontier has to be determined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 342.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 45.)

Constantinople, August 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, Protocols Nos. 43 and 44 of the proceedings of the Commission of which I am a member.

Since sending by post my despatch No. 44 of the 7th instant, I have nothing further to report, except that on the same date Colonel Philippoff started for Rustchuk; he gave no notice of his intention to the President, merely leaving a verbal message to be communicated to the Commission by one of the Russian Military Attachés, by which it would appear that he considered that matters would be expedited by a personal inquiry after the missing maps, and that he hoped to bring them with him from Rustchuk in ten days.

If Colonel Philippoff, in the course of a week or ten days, returns to Constantinople with the long promised missing sheets, I would still hope to complete our labours early in September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

Inclosure 1 in No. 342.

Protocole No. 43.—*Séance du* 24 *Juin*, 1879, *à Adacali.*

Président, M. le Major GORDON.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte. de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 42 est lu et adopté.

La Commission ayant parcouru le terrain entre la "Maritza" et l'Arda, *M. le Président* déclare la discussion ouverte pour la détermination de la frontière entre ces deux rivières.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie fait la proposition suivante :

Du point déterminé l'année dernière sur la rive droite de la "Maritza," la frontière atteint en ligne droite un peuplier (Kodja-Kavak), qui domine tous les arbres du voisinage et se trouve situé non loin du bord de la rive gauche de la rivière au lieu dit Toussous-Oglou-Tarlassi. De cet arbre elle se dirige en ligne droite sur le point le plus élevé du bord oriental de la tranchée du chemin de fer, au lieu dit Saïd-Beyline-Kirmassi-bachi, pour atteindre ensuite toujours en ligne droite un groupe de trois tumulus (utch cuyukler), et de là un tumulus isolé situé au lieu dit Sidero-Tarlassi, puis enfin non loin de ce dernier tumulus le débouché d'un ravin très-encaissé, dans lequel coule le Tchinar-Déré, le village de Mesek restant à la Turquie, celui de Téké-Tépé à la Roumélie Orientale.

Elle remonte ensuite le thalweg de ce ruisseau pour atteindre la crête de Bestépé-Dagh, qui forme le partage des eaux entre la "Maritza" au nord et l'Arda au sud. Elle suit cette crête jusqu'au point culminant de la hauteur dite Kara-Tépé, et de là se dirige sur le sommet d'une éminence au lieu Baghlik-Serti, en suivant le partage des eaux entre le Saz-Bounar à l'est et l'Urumkeui-Déré à l'ouest, le village d'Urumkeui restant à la Roumélie Orientale. De ce dernier point elle atteint en ligne droite le sommet d'une autre éminence, au lieu dit Ailadjik-Tépé, pour gagner également en ligne droite le point le plus bas du col séparant les hauteurs qui bordent la rive gauche de l'Arda, à 1,500 mètres et à l'ouest du village d'Adacali, lequel reste à la Turquie ainsi que ceux de Yenikeui et de Colbukin. Elle rejoint ensuite

la rivière Arda en suivant le thalweg d'une ravine qui débouche dans cette rivière non loin et à l'est du gué de Deïrmen-Getchit.

Cette proposition, mise aux voix, est adoptée à l'unanimité.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 342.

Protocole No. 44.—Séance tenue le 28 Juin, 1879, à Hadji-Oghloutari.

Président, M. le Major GORDON.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Krahmer.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Capitaine Cte. de Wurmbrand.

Pour la France—
M. le Capitaine Nicolas.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Gordon.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant de Wolski.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Capitaine Tornaghi.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Philippoff.
Adjoint, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Coummerant.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey.
Adjoints, M. le Major Rifat Bey, et
M. le Capitaine Seïfoullah Effendi.
Secrétaire, Onnik Effendi.

LE Protocole No. 43 est lu et adopté.

M. le Commissaire de Russie déclare que son Ambassadeur l'autorise à renvoyer les troupes Russes qui devaient accompagner les officiers topographes et à demander à l'autorité Turque de vouloir bien prendre les mesures nécessaires pour faciliter les travaux et assurer la protection de ces officiers, conformément à la proposition qu'il a faite dans la séance du 20 Juin.

M. le Commissaire de Turquie répond que les mesures dont il s'agit vont être prises immédiatement.

M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne fait observer que la Commission est sur le point de s'engager dans le massif montagneux du Rhodope, pour lequel il n'existe aucune carte topographique, et qu'elle va se trouver dans des conditions nouvelles, qui appellent à son avis des modifications à la méthode suivie jusqu'à ce jour dans les opérations de la délimitation. Il pense que l'on pourrait poser les règles suivantes :—

Lorsque la crête qui doit déterminer la frontière sera bien visible et ne pourra donner lieu à aucune contestation, la Commission, après l'avoir reconnue, passera outre sans attendre que le lever régulier soit terminé. S'il y a, au contraire, quelques doutes sur la direction à suivre et qu'un lever de terrain soit nécessaire, la Commission le fera exécuter par l'officier topographe qui l'accompagne. Ce lever qui sera complétement indépendant du lever régulier pourra n'être qu'un simple croquis expédié.

Après avoir ainsi reconnu et fixé la frontière sur les lieux, la Commission la tracera définitivement à Constantinople sur les minutes des levers réguliers, et s'aidera

pour ce travail des croquis expédiés qu'elle aura eu l'occasion de faire exécuter dans le cours de sa connaissance.

La proposition de M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne, mise aux voix, est adoptée à l'unanimité.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
WURMBRAND.
L. NICOLAS.
R. GORDON.
D. TORNAGHI.
N. PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR.

No. 343.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 490 A.)

Vienna, August 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I LEARN that the Austrian Government has not received a Circular from that of Russia on the subject of the Montenegrin Frontier Commission; moreover, that they are not in possession of official or precise knowledge of a Russian amendment to the Italian proposal.

In common with all his colleagues, except the Russian and Montenegrin, the Austrian Commissioner accepted the Italian proposal as amended by the English Commissioner, and the question was therefore regarded as settled by this Government, as the importance of upholding the principle of letting all such questions be decided by the vote of the majority of the Commission is strongly insisted on by Count Andrassy.

The Russians propose, it appears, that the marks of the disputed parts of the frontier, whether on the map or on the ground, shall be considered as provisional until definitively decided by the Powers.

This is decidedly objected to by Count Andrassy, who says that, till the rest of the work has been completed by the Commission, the marks must be provisional, after which the Commission will decide finally and by majority on the disputed points.

The matter, in Count Andrassy's opinion, cannot be settled in any other manner, and it is only the Commissioners on the spot, and not the Governments, who are competent to deal with the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 344.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 502.)

Vienna, August 11, 1879.

My Lord,

I REPEATED this day to Berlin your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, M. Boerescо having already left Vienna for that capital on his way to St. Petersburgh before it reached me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 345.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 506.)

Vienna, August 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE asked Baron Calice whether he had heard anything of the intention of the Russian Government, mentioned in Mr. Gould's telegram of yesterday, to get the

services of a Servian upon the Commission of Demarcation for fixing the Dobrudscha frontier.

He said he had not heard a rumour of there being any such intention, and he did not believe that a proposal, for which no plausible pretext could be brought forward, was at all likely to be made.

He would, however, telegraph to Belgrade to desire Baron Herbert to report anything he had heard on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 346.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 509.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 14, 1879.*

I SPOKE this afternoon to Baron Orczy of the proposal of the Russian Government that the Servian Boundary Commission should be directed to deal with the question of the Dobrudscha frontier at Arab-Tabia.

His Excellency said that the suggestion had been referred to Count Andrassy for his opinion, but he and Baron Calice had represented to him that it did not appear to them to be acceptable.

The Servian Commission does not even exist in virtue of the Treaty of Berlin, and was created as a mere matter of convenience, having to transmit its work for confirmation to the Bulgarian Commission, which is, moreover, composed of far more eminent men, and it would not be proper that the decisions of the latter should now be submitted for examination or revision to a Commission that was in some respects subordinate to it.

Baron Orczy added that, as we have now got the assurance that the Italian Government adhere to the last year's decision about the Dobrudscha frontier, the only Government whose action is still doubtful is that of Germany, so that, in any case, a majority for its maintenance is assured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 347.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 511. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 14, 1879.*

TWO days ago Edhem Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador, informed me that his Government had learnt that quarters for 42,000 troops were being got ready at Serajevo, and that large transports of provisions were passing to Tchanitza and Avrazada, and he urgently pressed me to say what I thought of this report.

The Porte seemed to apprehend an aggression upon a large scale towards Novi-Bazar, of which I was satisfied of there not being the most remote intention; but I inquired of Baron Orczy what military movements were going on in the district.

He declared that not a man was being added to the troops in Bosnia, but that a change of quarters was being made by the regiments which for the last year had been in the southern parts of it with those which had been stationed in the north, and that it was perfectly true that provisions and stores were being taken to Tchanitza or other places near the frontier of the *enclave*, to be, during the winter, within available distance of the garrisons which will occupy the positions named in the Convention, as soon as the arrangements between the Duke of Wurtemberg and Husni Pasha have been completed.

I gave this explanation to Edhem Pasha; and finding him apprehensive that the resignation of Count Andrassy had been brought about by a resolution taken by the Emperor to make an advance into Turkey to satisfy the military party in this country, I assured my colleague that, His Majesty having concluded a Convention with the Porte respecting the occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, his known loyalty and good faith made it certain that he would abide by it.

I reminded the Ambassador of the credulity shown by the Porte in regard to reports such as this, of which he had himself had a recent example, when he was instructed to protest against an advance of the Austrian troops into the sandjak, which was soon ascertained never to have taken place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 348.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 866.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 17, 1879.*

THIS afternoon I communicated to M. Waddington your Lordship's despatch No. 1073 of the 15th instant, respecting the proposals which M. Boerescо is bringing to the Courts of Europe respecting the Jewish question.

M. Waddington said that he entirely agreed with your Lordship's observations, and he also considered M. Boerescо's proposals to be wholly unsatisfactory.

His Excellency added that he had informed Prince Hohenlohe, the German Ambassador, and the French Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, that the French Government would reject these proposals, and would abide by those previously agreed to by M. Stourdza at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 349.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 874.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 18, 1879.*

I SPOKE to M. Waddington yesterday with reference to the Russian proposal that the question of Arab-Tabia should be referred to the Servian Commission, and I mentioned that your Lordship did not see how you could agree to this proposal, because, the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier having been assigned to the Bulgarian Commission by the Treaty of Berlin, it would not be valid unless it was carried out in accordance with that Treaty.

M. Waddington said that, for his part, he would have no objection to the members of the old Servian Commission being reappointed, with fresh powers, as a new Commission, to settle this question; and he seemed to have no doubt that such a Commission would be valid under the Treaty of Berlin. But he added that he certainly would not agree to the appointment of this Commission, unless it was distinctly laid down that its members were to be bound in all matters by a majority of the votes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 350.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 619. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 18, 1879.*

SAFVET PASHA is desirous of knowing whether you would still advise Porte to occupy Bourgas with troops now that Russian evacuation is complete.

No. 351.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19, 9 A.M.)

(No. 620.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 18, 1879.

PORTE is very anxious to name Mr. E. Calvert one of the Finance Inspectors on account of his knowledge of the language and the country, but he is unwilling to give up his Vice-Consulate.

Would you permit him to accept for a year without renouncing it, leaving Albert Biliotti in charge? I think it would be of great advantage. If you consent, he will be appointed, and the list of European Inspectors published at once.

No. 352.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 621.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 19, 1879.

YOUR telegram No. 214 of 8th instant. All the Berats have now been obtained

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No. 353.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 622.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 19, 1879.

SAFVET PASHA tells me that Hussein Pasha's successor leaves to-day, but that he does not wish him to know it, as he might have recourse to intrigue to frustrate intentions of the Porte.

No. 354.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 18, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs has been desired to tell me that Count Andrassy entirely coeurs with your Lordship in considering proposal to refer Arab-Tabia question to the Servian Commission unacceptable. He would not even agree to it if the Russians consented to accept decision of majority.

Similar communication will be made to Prince Reuss, who tells me that he understood his Government to intend to adopt whatever opinion Count Andrassy might come to on the question.

No. 355.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19, 2·20 P.M.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 19, 1879, 11 A.M.

FRENCH Commissioner has communicated to me a telegram just received from his Government, stating that the ground put forward by the Russian Government for desiring submission of Arab-Tabia question to the Servian Commission is the conciliatory spirit of which he and his colleagues have given proof.

He indignantly repudiates the inference which the Russian Government evidently wish to draw from this assertion, and maintains, on the contrary, that the conciliatory spirit referred to amounts in reality to a disposition lately evinced by the majority blindly to further Russian objections.

In pursuance of instructions from his Government, Russian Commissioner is to proceed to St. Petersburgh immediately after the conclusion of the work of the Servian Commission, which will then have virtually ceased to exist.

No. 356.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1879, 4 P.M.

MR. MICHELL telegraphs from Philippopolis on the 14th instant that the absence of the Italian Commissioner is very regrettable.

No. 357.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 436.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegram from Mr. Michell at Philippopolis, relative to the absence of the Italian member of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, which, he states, is much to be regretted.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 358.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 50. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, August* 6, 1879.

A FRIEND of mine has communicated to me the inclosed translation of a letter which he has received from a Turkish source at Rustchuk relative to the state of affairs in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 358.

Extract from a Letter dated Rustchuk, July 22, 1879.

(Translation.)

LES Russes partent ces jours-ci avec beaucoup de célérité. D'après ce qu'on entend avec certitude les Russes quittent la Bulgarie, et dans une ou deux semaines pas même un seul Russe ne resterait.

Mais les Bulgares ne veulent pas que les Russes partent de la Bulgarie, et dans ce but ils font toutes sortes d'intrigues. Dernièrement le Gouvernement de Bulgarie a publié officiellement par des suppléments imprimés des nouvelles télégraphiques d'après lesquelles les Musulmans auraient envahi Osman Bazar, et après avoir combattu cinq heures avec l'armée Bulgare ont eu trente morts et dix prisonniers, sur lesquels on aurait trouvé des lettres ainsi conçues: "Les Musulmans de la Roumélie Orientale se sont unis à ceux de la Bulgarie pour massacrer les Bulgares aussitôt après le départ des Russes de la Bulgarie." La publication de ces nouvelles, dont la véracité est contestée, a réduit au désespoir tous les Musulmans de Roustchouk. Enfin on a avisé à Choumla et de Choumla à Osman Bazar, et il a été prouvé que ces nouvelles n'étaient pas vraies. On en a donné immédiatement avis aux Consuls à Roustchouk, et maintenant les Bulgares cherchent et retirent ces suppléments qui étaient affichés dans les rues en disant qu'il y a eu erreur, tandis que eux-mêmes ce jour-là ont expédiés des télégrammes en Europe en disant qu'avant même le départ des Russes de la Bulgarie les Turcs avaient commencé à massacrer les Bulgares, qu'à Osman Bazar

* Consul-General Michell, No. 25, Telegraphic, August 14.

un pareil massacre a eu lieu, et que si les Russes sortent de la Bulgarie on ne sait pas ce qu'il adviendra.

Les Consuls en ont été étonnés. Malgré l'installation du Prince, les Musulmans de Lofteha, de Nicopolis, et de Plevna n'ont pas pu encore obtenir leur immeubles. Ils n'ont pas même la permission d'habiter dans une chambre de leurs maisons, et se trouvent en plein air. On disait que ces sortes d'oppressions auraient leur fin à l'arrivée du Prince, maintenant c'est pire encore.

No. 359.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 51. Political.)

Salonica, August 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard, relative to an outrage said to have been committed by Bulgarians on Major Ardagh and party, in the direction of Egri-Palanka.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 359.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, August 8, 1879.

Sir,

THIS morning I sent your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"I have just received following telegram from Mr. Cooper, Ottoman Commissioner for Salonica Railway:

"'*Uscup, August* 8.—News has just reached the authorities of this place that a party of thirty Bulgarians attacked and fired ten shots on Major Ardagh and his comrades at a place called Kurli Balcan Yaumi Sacca Bachissa. In consequence of this the Commission has suspended its work.'

"I have telegraphed to Mr. Cooper for further particulars, and I shall at once inform Safvet Pasha, and request him to make inquiries and afford proper assistance."

Subsequently, the same day, after communicating on the subject with Safvet Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, I sent to your Excellency a further telegram, to the following effect:—

"The Mushir, Safvet Pasha, not having received any report of the outrage on Major Ardagh and his colleagues, has telegraphed to the military authorities at Uscup for full particulars, and directed them to afford every assistance and protection to the Major and his party."

Safvet Pasha tells me that the country all along the Bulgarian side of the border continues to be occupied by armed bands of Bulgarians, and his Excellency read to me a telegram which he received yesterday from General Suleiman Pasha, at Djuma, stating that a Russian officer, with whom he has recently had an interview, remarked to him that it was useless to expect that tranquillity will be established on the Bulgarian border so long as the inhabitants of the Principality were allowed to remain in possession of the arms which were distributed to them during the late war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 360.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 52. Political.)

Salonica, August 11, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a further despatch which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, relative to the alleged outrage on Major Ardagh and party.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 360.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, August 11, 1879.

Sir,

I SENT to your Excellency this day the following two telegrams, *en clair*, the first at 2 P.M., and the second at 3 P.M.:—

"Received following telegram from Mr. Cooper at Uscup, dated this morning:—

"'According latest news Major Ardagh still prevented doing his work by Bulgarians. The Commission is now at Egri Palanka. Matter has been referred to Sophia and Constantinople.'"

Second telegram:—

"Telegram of yesterday's date from Governor of Egri Palanka informs the Mushir Safvet Pasha that although Major Ardagh and party were fired upon by Bulgarians, no one was hurt, and that the Commission will proceed to Kotchana, to resume their survey."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 361.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 19. Political.)

Scutari, Albania, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a tracing on which is indicated that portion of the new boundary of Montenegro which lies between the Scutari lake and the sea.

The line between the high mountains and the sea (A to B in tracing) which the Commission had deputed me to demarcate, is marked in green. This line has been approved by six voices against two, viz., the Russian and Montenegrin, who abstained from voting.

The alternative line marked in yellow was that proposed by the Russian Commissioner. This has been rejected.

Between the high mountains (point B in tracing) and the sea three alternative lines have also been demarcated (on paper only) by the Turkish Commissioner, the Russian Commissioner and myself.

The Commission have rejected the Turkish line by seven voices against one, but are unable to come to a decision between the remaining lines, as four Commissioners vote for Colonel Kaulbars' line and four against it, and as the President has no casting vote.

The Russian, Montenegrin, French, and Italian Commissioners voted for the line marked in yellow.

The reasons for and against the two lines are given in the annexed extracts from a Protocol not yet signed.

Some importance is to be attached to the point at issue, because the Russian project not only approaches still closer the line already dangerously close to Scutari, and also because the mountain marked as Petubala in the tracing is one which would be practically well suited as a military post for offensive purposes on the part of the Montenegrins against Scutari. It is clear to me that they desire the mountain for this purpose.

I am entirely in accord with the Austrian Commissioner in this matter.

I would venture to suggest to your Lordship that, as Article XXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin was based on a project put forward by Austria (Annex No. 1, Protocol 10, Treaty of Berlin) it is probable that the French Government might be moved to direct their Representative to reconsider his vote, and to support the Austrian Commissioner and myself in this matter, more especially as I do not think that he has any special instructions on this point.

As matters now stand we can arrive at no decision as regards this particular part of the frontier where, as it happens, it is particularly necessary that the boundary should be settled definitively as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

Inclosure 1 in No. 361.

Tracing of the Portion of the New Boundary which lies between the Scutari Lake and the Sea.

Inclosure 2 in No. 361.

Extract from Protocol.

M. LE CAPITAINE SALE répond aux observations que viennent de faire MM. les Commissaires de Russie et du Monténégro, qu'il admet que le Traité de Berlin, relativement à la frontière entre la crête et le lac, pourrait être interprété dans le sens du tracé soumis par M. le Baron Kaulbars; il insiste néanmoins sur son propre projet, parce que:

La Commission s'est décidée depuis longtemps à considérer la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien comme explication du Traité de Berlin dans les cas douteux; or, dans le cas présent le texte du Traité laisse beaucoup de place au doute; donc, pour résoudre la question de cette partie de la frontière, il faut se rapporter à la carte Autrichienne. Le lever du terrain entre le lac et la crête des montagnes de Kraina montre assez exactement la direction et la forme de cette crête; en effet, si on avait eu l'intention au Congrès de Berlin de faire passer la frontière par la cime indiquée dans le projet de M. le Baron Kaulbars, on n'aurait pas manqué de l'indiquer. Mais puisqu'il en a été autrement, et que sur la dite carte cette frontière franchit la crête par un point éloigné de plusieurs kilomètres de plus au nord, on ne peut que suivre ce tracé autant que les accidents topographiques le permettent.

Il faut observer aussi que dans l'Annexe I au Protocole No. 10 du Congrès de Berlin, sur lequel l'Article XXVIII est basé, on trouve les expressions suivantes: "Elle (la frontière) suivra ensuite les limites actuelles entre la tribu des Kruci-Drekalovici d'un côté et la Kucka Kraina, ainsi que les tribus des Klementi et Gruda de l'autre, jusque dans la plaine de Podgorica, d'où elle se dirigera sur Plevnica, laissant à l'Albanie les tribus Montagnardes de Klementi, Gruda, et Hoti. Ensuite, traversant le lac, la frontière passera près de l'ilot de Gorica-Topal, d'où elle traversera la montagne pour aboutir à la mer à la pointe de Kruci, laissant à l'Albanie le district de Dulcigno." Si la frontière est déterminée selon le projet de M. le Commissaire de Russie, elle ne traversera pas la montagne en quittant Gorica-Topal, qu'après avoir fait un grand détour, tandis qu'il est évident qu'elle doit la traverser presque directement.

Il fait observer aussi que le Pertubala est une position stratégique d'une haute importance, parce qu'il domine complétement le Tarabas, qui lui-même domine immédiatement la ville de Scutari, et qu'il est le seul point où puissent être établies les positions défensives de Scutari, dans le cas où le Pertubala serait cédé aux Monténégrins. Le Pertubala offre une belle position pour les troupes, étant dans un pays fertile et bien approvisionné d'eau, mais en tout cas elle a une valeur offensive pour le Monténégro, et défensive seulement pour la Turquie, et en l'attribuant au Monténégro, on lui donnerait une position dominante, qu'il n'était évidemment pas dans l'intention du Traité de Berlin de lui donner.

Inclosure 3 in No. 361.

Extract from Protocol.

AYANT fait dans les journées des 14 et 15 Mai, et en compagnie des MM. le Capitaine Sale et Nico Matanovich, une étude du terrain entre le Lac de Scutari et la crête des montagnes qui séparent ce lac de la Mer Adriatique, je pensé que la frontière, à partir de Gorica-Topal devrait se diriger vers le Mont Pjat-Uballa.

Le Traité s'exprime ainsi: "Et à partir de Gorica-Topal, elle (la frontière) atteint directement les sommets de la crête," &c.

J'appui particulièrement sur l'expression "directement," parce que je ne puis l'interpréter d'aucune autre manière que celle de vouloir atteindre le sommet de la crête le plus rapproché de Gorica-Topal. Or, le lever du terrain, fait par les membres de la Sous-Commission Topographique, a démontré que le Pjat-Uballa en effet, était le sommet le plus rapproché de Gorica-Topal. Que ce point élevé se trouve précisément

sur la crête principale des montagnes qui divisent le lac de la mer, est suffisamment clair pour tous ceux qui l'ont assisté, et qui ont pu constater que sur tout leur parcours le Mont Tarabash, y inclus ces montagnes, se précipitent rapidement vers la mer et les plaines de la Boyana, sans détacher un seul contrefort dans cette direction.

D'un autre côté, la ligne proposée coïncide à peu près avec les limites actuelles des deux communes, les Ostrasj et les Arbanesj. Les Ostrasj occupent le terrain entre le lac et le Monastère jusqu'au monticule Stranica, et c'est à cette commune qu'appartiennent les ilots Gorica-Topal (Top Halva ou Planick), Vogel, Ghiagat, et Ghiat.

En revanche, c'est la commune des Arbanesj qui occupe le reste du terrain vers Jogàc, et c'est à elle qu'appartient en même temps le petit ilot Arbanesj (à l'est de Ghiat).

Sur la crête, et tout près du sommet Pjat-Uballa se trouvent sept grands puits creusés et des pâturages, la jouissance desquels est divisée entre les deux communes. Sur un point si élevé, et dans un pays où l'eau est rare en été, ces puits ont une valeur toute particulière pour l'abreuvage des troupeaux qui paissent sur la montagne.

Pendant notre reconnaissance du 5 Août, la Commission a pu s'apercevoir que tous les villages du littoral en question ont leurs sentiers descendant vers le lac. Ainsi celui des Mautici aboutit au sud-ouest de Gorica Top Halwa (Planick), à l'endroit où se trouvent deux petits Koulas et un puits; celui des Ostras, au sud du même ilot, ayant aussi deux Koulas, qui jadis servaient à la défense de ce sentier et celui des Arbanesj, au fond de la petite baie qui se trouve au sud-ouest de l'ilot Arbanesj, et gardé de même par un Koula. Il me semble donc juste et équitable de laisser ces sentiers dans la possession des villages auxquels ils appartiennent, d'autant plus que les habitants du littoral, pour la plupart étant pêcheurs, jouissent de ces sentiers comme le seul moyen de communiquer avec le lac.

Tenant compte de toutes ces considérations que je viens de faire, je propose que la nouvelle frontière, tout en se dirigeant de Gorica-Topal vers le Mont Pjat-Uballa, devrait en détail poursuivre le tracé suivant:

En passant par le détroit entre les ilots Gorica-Topal (Top Halwa ou Planick) et Vogel, la frontière suit une direction sud pour atteindre la rive du lac, à l'endroit où deux petits Koulas sont bâtis aux pieds du sentier des Ostrasj. De ce point elle devrait monter par un ravin au plateau, et tout en suivant les limites actuelles entre les Communes Ostras et Arbanes, passer par le monticule Stranica, remonter le contrefort entre les villages Eskag et Perasi; passer par les sept puits qui devraient rester divisés entre les deux communes, et atteindre le sommet du Mont Pjat-Uballa.

Le Traité de Berlin poursuit en ces termes: " . . . . d'où elle suit la ligne de partage des eaux, &c."

Conformément à ce texte, la frontière devait, en quittant le Mont Pjat-Uballa, suivre la crête principale; passer par le sommet le plus élevé du Mont Bojca Vrk (Coschara) et, laissant à la Turquie les petits champs du village Bojca, qui se trouvent sur le plateau de cette montagne, se diriger vers le sommet No. 21 à l'est du Uramed (Bastovica), pour y atteindre la ligne indiquée par moi dans le Protocole No. 20.

(Signé) Baron NICOLAS KAULBARS I.,
Commissaire de Russie.

Scutari, le 6 Août, 1879.

Inclosure 4 in No. 361.

Extract from Protocol.

Déclaration de M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie.

EN établissant la nouvelle frontière du Monténégro entre le Lac de Scutari et Megured-Kalimed, le Congrès de Berlin a arrêté qu'elle doit atteindre directement les sommets de la crête.

L'expression "directement" ne saurait souffrir d'autre interprétation que celle d'une ligne droite dans le sens absolu, ou relativement droite quand il s'agit de transporter du papier au terrain un tracé de frontière. Si ce tracé doit relier directement deux points topographiques donnés la ligne à établir entre ces deux points ne saurait être qu'une ligne droite, surtout lorsque l'un d'eux se trouvant à l'extrémité de la ligne est très-rapproché d'un troisième qu'il s'agit de gagner immédiatement après (sommet de la crête—partage des eaux entre Megured et Kalimed), et lorsque la direction générale du tracé est directe.

La Commission pour fixer la frontière entre le lac, la crête, et Megured-Kalimed

a le choix entre deux projets de tracés présentés par M. le Commissaire de Russie d'une part, et par M. le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne de l'autre.

Un troisième projet, présenté par la Délégation Ottomane, adopte un ilot différent de celui que la Commission a accepté dans sa quatrième séance comme point d'attache sur la rive occidentale du lac. Il doit être soumis à l'appréciation des Cabinets, mais il ne saurait être discuté par la Commission.

Le tracé de M. le Commissaire Russe, en partant de Gorica-Topal (Carte Autrichienne), atteint la crête par la ligne la plus courte sur le sommet le plus rapproché de la chaîne principale qu'il suit, après avoir formé un angle pour aboutir, par le moyen d'un détour considérable, à l'est de Kalimed à la limite de Mirkovic, avec laquelle il se confond jusqu'à la mer.

Le tracé de M. le Commissaire Britannique se dirige de Gorica-Topal par une ligne relativement droite, vers les sommets de la crête bordant le lac au-dessus de cet ilot. Après les avoir atteints il suit le partage des eaux au-dessus de Megured-Kalimed, et passe entre deux villages pour gagner la mer en ligne presque directe.

L'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin, pour indiquer que la frontière Monténégrine doit suivre une ligne courte, désigne cette direction nettement à deux reprises (délimitation du côté de l'Herzégovine par rapport à la frontière entre le Cepolica et les hauteurs bordant la Trebisnica, puis à la direction de la ligne de Volujak à la Piva).

De plus, il distingue entre "direct" et "court," vu que dans une autre phrase relative à la délimitation Herzégovienne il s'exprime ainsi:—

"A partir de ce point (Orline) la frontière avance directement par le nord-nord-est, puis elle descend par la ligne 'la plus courte' sur la Piva."

Si le Congrès s'était proposé de donner à la ligne entre le Lac de Scutari et la crête la direction la plus courte, il n'aurait pas hésité de se prononcer clairement en se servant des expressions qu'il a adoptées là où il voulait la suivre. Ayant employé le mot "directement," il a exprimé son intention de donner à cette ligne une direction droite. Sous ce rapport donc le tracé de M. le Commissaire de Russie ne semble pas être correcte.

En outre, ce tracé suit la crête à partir de la cime du Petublje jusqu'à la limite de Mirkovic.

L'Article XXVIII ne dit pas que la frontière doit se diriger par la crête, mais il prescrit qu'elle doit atteindre directement les sommets de la crête, d'où elle suivra la ligne du partage des eaux entre Megured et Kalimed. Sous ce rapport-là il faut se rappeler que ce même Article, pour bien rendre son idée quand il dirige la frontière par une crête, l'indique en disant, par exemple, que "de Sekulari elle se dirigera par les crêtes de la Mokra Planina," ou bien qu'elle "suivra la chaîne principale formant le partage des eaux entre le Lim, le Drin, et la Crevna."

M. le Commissaire de Russie, en partant de l'opinion que c'est la crête entre le Petublje et le Mraured, qui forme le partage des eaux dont il est question dans le texte, s'éloigne de ce dernier qui n'entend pas qu'on suive le partage des eaux formé par la chaîne principale dans toute son étendue, mais qui parle d'un partage entre deux points très-rapprochés, se trouvant tous les deux sur le même versant de cette chaîne, laquelle, en outre, au-dessus de Megured et Kalimed, court derrière les sommets de la crête que la ligne doit atteindre entre ces deux points indiqués nominativement.

Par contre, le tracé de M. le Commissaire Britannique, sauf quelques déviations occasionnées par la configuration du terrain, tient compte de toutes les exigences du texte par rapport à la ligne entre Gorica-Topal et la crête.

Il est direct, parce qu'il suit une ligne droite autant que les accidents topographiques le permettent; il atteint les sommets de la crête, d'où il suit le partage des eaux au-dessus de Megured et Kalimed; il passe entre ces deux villages, et il coïncide enfin avec le tracé du Congrès. Il renferme ainsi toutes les conditions pouvant faire supposer qu'il sera agréé par les Cabinets, et le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, en l'adoptant, se permet de le recommender vivement à messieurs ses collègues.

No. 362.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 54.) *Buyukdere, August* 13, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the text of the proposition carried on the 11th instant, by vote, at the *séance* of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, as described yesterday in my No. 53, and which I had not by me at the time of writing, was as follows:—

"Au nord la frontière suit le thalweg du Danube depuis l'ancienne frontière de Serbie jusqu'à la nouvelle frontière de la Dobroudja, tel qu'il sera reconnu et déterminé sur une première entente commune entre les parties intéressées, et successivement par des vérifications périodiques."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 363.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 56.) *Buyukdere, August* 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of Protocol No. 22 of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 363.

Protocole No. 22.—Séance tenue à Thérapia à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre, le 28 Juillet, 1879.

Etaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major Comte Wedel.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp;
M. le Capitaine Podstawski.

Pour la France—
M. le Commandant Lemoyne,
M. le Capitaine Marmier.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major-Général Hamley,
M. le Major Ardagh,
M. le Capitaine Jones.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Orero,
M. le Capitaine Vicino-Pallavicino.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Bogolubow,
M. le Capitaine Selmeur.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence le Général Tahir Pacha,
Simon Effendi (Papasian),
Le Commandant Hassan Bey.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.
Le Protocole No. 21 est lu et adopté.
M. le Général Hamley demande la parole pour soumettre à la Commission une

proposition susceptible de hâter la marche de ses travaux. Il rappelle qu'à la dernière séance le Colonel Bogolubow a parlé de remettre au bout d'un laps de deux mois les cartes Russes manquantes, que le Commissaire Russe n'a pas cru devoir s'engager à les livrer plus tôt, qu'il a même fait allusion dans son discours à des éventualités qui pourraient complétement le dégager. Il lui paraît inadmissible que les Représentants de l'Europe acceptent une situation aussi pleine d'incertitude, et qu'ils s'exposent à se retrouver dans deux mois en présence des mêmes obstacles. Aussi, bien que les officiers mis primitivement par le Gouvernement Anglais à la disposition de son Commissaire en vue des travaux de topographie à effectuer, aient reçu d'autres destinations à une époque où l'on ne mettait pas en doute la réalisation de la promesse faite par le Commissaire de Russie, le Général Hamley a pu reconstituer une brigade de quatre officiers : le Major Ardagh, les Capitaines Everett et Jones et le Lieutenant de Wolski, et il propose à la Commission d'en disposer pour combler les lacunes actuelles de la carte de la zone-frontière. Tout en entendant laisser la Commission maîtresse de désigner les points sur lesquels ladite brigade devra travailler, le Général estime qu'on pourrait se dispenser de lever la ligne de partage entre les bassins du Mesta-Karasu et du Struma-Karasu, en raison du fort relief et de la forme parfaitement accusée de la crête, et qu'il conviendrait plutôt de combler la lacune située dans le voisinage d'Egri-Palanka. Dans le cas où la Commission accepterait son offre, il la prie de donner des instructions au Major Ardagh, qui se mettrait alors probablement en route le 20 Juillet.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow rappelle de nouveau à ses collègues les démarches précédemment faites auprès de la Sublime Porte et auprès du Commissaire Ottoman, afin de prouver qu'il n'a pas dépendu des topographes Russes que les cartes fussent remises dans les délais indiqués. Il a donné à la Commission l'assurance qu'elle recevrait les dites cartes dans deux mois, si de nouvelles difficultés ne surgissaient pas. Il est profondément affecté du manque de confiance en l'exécution d'une promesse faite officiellement par lui, que témoignent les paroles prononcées par le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne, et il désirerait connaître la cause de cette attitude nouvelle de ses collègues.

M. le Colonel Orero estime que la question ne doit pas dégénérer en un débat personnel et qu'il convient de ne retenir du discours du Général Hamley que le côté pratique. Il n'a pas d'ailleurs à se prononcer entre les officiers Anglais et les officiers Russes ; les travaux des uns et des autres pourront être utilisés s'ils sont remis à la Commission en temps utile. L'important est de mener rapidement à bon terme une œuvre au prompt achèvement de laquelle tant d'intérêts Européens sont attachés. Entre les topographes Russes et la Commission se trouvent plusieurs intermédiaires : il y a donc du temps perdu dans la transmission des désirs de la Commission. Les topographes Russes mènent de front l'exécution de la carte de la Bulgarie et le levé de la zone-Frontière ; tout le temps consacré tant au lever du terrain en dehors de cette zone qu'à la reproduction du dessin de cette zone elle-même est également du temps perdu. Les officiers Anglais, véritables agents de la Commission, ne dessineront que le terrain utile à la délimitation et mettront leurs minutes à la disposition du Secrétariat. Ils peuvent dans ces conditions achever leur tâche dans un délai moindre que les topographes Russes.

M. le Colonel Bogolubow demandant à poser la question de confiance et parlant de faire suspendre les travaux entrepris par le service topographique Russe, le Président lui fait observer que pour une cause certainement indépendante de sa volonté, les engagements contractés par lui n'ont pas été réalisés, que la Commission a confiance en l'exécution de sa nouvelle promesse, mais qu'elle ne peut perdre de vue la restriction qui accompagne cette promesse. Elle doit donc se préoccuper d'obtenir en temps utile les cartes qui lui sont nécessaires, même dans le cas où les difficultés envisagées par le Colonel Bogolubow viendraient à se présenter. On conçoit d'ailleurs que les officiers Anglais puissent travailler sans difficulté dans une région où les topographes Russes rencontreraient des obstacles insurmontables.

Le Commissaire de Russie déclare alors qu'il se considère comme dégagé de ses derniers engagements et qu'il reviendra sur la nouvelle communication adressée au Général Jarnefelt. Celui-ci deviendra, par conséquent, entièrement libre de diviser la besogne entre ses topographes de la façon la plus avantageuse à l'exécution des travaux dont il se trouve chargé.

M. le Général Hamley fait remarquer que, d'après le sentiment exprimé à la dernière séance par le Colonel Bogolubow, il serait impossible, au point où en sont les travaux, de songer à une nouvelle dislocation des topographes.

Le Commissaire de Russie complète l'expression de sa pensée en disant qu'il avait prié le Général Jarnefelt de faire un levé expédié de certaines régions de la zone-frontière ; qu'il pourrait être plus utile à son Gouvernement d'avoir un levé régulier desdites régions, que le service topographique Russe sera dorénavant libre d'opérer à sa guise.

Cette nouvelle déclaration amène le Président à rappeler au Commissaire de Russie que d'après sa propre déclaration, les topographes échelonnés en ce moment le long de la frontière travailleraient uniquement pour la Commission.

Le Commissaire de Russie prie de nouveau la Commission de le relever de ses engagements. Si les travaux promis continuent à faire besoin à la Commission, ils seront poursuivis dans les conditions habituelles d'exécution des levés Russes, et ces levers réguliers aussitôt terminés seront remis au Secrétariat. M. le Colonel Bogolubow estime d'ailleurs qu'un levé expédié, suffisant comme pièce annexe d'un instrument diplomatique, serait insuffisant pour l'exécution des travaux de bornage, et que, par conséquent, les levers réguliers Russes peuvent seuls satisfaire aux nécessités de la situation.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp tient à exprimer de nouveau à la Commission son sentiment touchant l'absolue nécessité d'un lever régulier pour toute l'étendue de la frontière, sauf pour la grande chaîne qui sépare les eaux du Mesta-Karasu, et du Struma-Karasu, où il admettrait un lever expédié. Il propose donc d'envoyer dans cette région les officiers Anglais.

M. le Colonel Orero remarque que, si cet amendement était accueilli, la proposition du Général Hamley perdrait son caractère pratique, puisque la Commission devrait attendre pour terminer ses travaux la remise par les topographes Russes des levés réguliers relatifs à la région d'Egri-Palanka. Il prie le Président de demander au Major Ardagh, qui a fait partie avec le Colonel de Ripp de la Délégation de l'Ouest, son opinion sur les difficultés que présente le terrain et sur le degré d'exactitude des opérations topographiques qu'il entreprendra.

M. le Major Ardagh, invité à répondre à ces questions, déclare que, d'après sa connaissance des lieux, il peut assurer la Commission qu'un levé expédié suffira amplement à la détermination des points de repère de la frontière, tant pour le travail de la délimitation que pour les opérations précises des Commissaires de Bornage.

Le Président rappelle à ce propos à la Commission qu'elle avait cru l'an dernier pouvoir se contenter de semblables levés pour la frontière de la Dobroudja, que les travaux réguliers exécutés depuis par les Roumains ont montré la perfection relative des premiers levés dus en grande partie au Major Ardagh. Il estime qu'il était, cependant, plus difficile de figurer un terrain aux formes indécises comme celui de la Dobroudja, qu'une ligne de partage nettement accusée comme celle entre l'Egri Su et la Lepnitza.

Le Président donne ensuite lecture de la proposition suivante du Colonel Orero que M. le Général Hamley grée en remerciant son auteur :

"La Commission, sans vouloir revenir sur l'acceptation de l'offre faite par le Commissaire de Russie de lui livrer dans un délai approximatif de deux mois le levé régulier de la frontière, accepte également avec reconnaissance l'offre faite par le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne de mettre des officiers à la disposition de la Commission pour l'exécution de levés expédiés qui pourront vraisemblablement être terminée dans un délai moindre."

Avant de mettre cette proposition aux voix, le Président demande au Commissaire de Russie s'il maintient sa première déclaration touchant la suspension des travaux déjà entrepris par les topographes Russes ; car, s'il en était ainsi, il devrait appeler la Commission à trancher par un vote la question suivante : Est-il indispensable de posséder un levé régulier ou expédié de la chaîne du Rhodope qui sépare les bassins de Mesta-Karasu et du Struma-Karasu ?

M. le Commissaire de Russie déclare que les travaux seront poursuivis ; mais qu'il a reconvré et qu'il garde sa liberté d'action.

La proposition du Colonel Orero est ensuite adoptée à l'unanimité ; plusieurs Commissaires motivent leur vote.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne ne donne son adhésion que sous la condition que les topographes Russes poursuivront les travaux qu'ils ont entrepris pour la Commission.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie croit devoir exprimer sa confiance dans l'exécution de la promesse faite par le Colonel Bogolubow, ainsi que dans l'habileté et le bon vouloir des topographes Russes, qu'il a vus à l'œuvre sur les confins de la Bulgarie et de la Macédoine. S'il vote en faveur de la proposition, c'est uniquement afin de ne rien négliger pour accélérer la marche des travaux : il ne voudrait pas qu'on lui

attribuât la pensée que les topographes Russes n'ont pas apporté à l'accomplissement de leur tâche tout l'empressement désirable.

Le Commissaire de Russie tient des levés expédiés pour insuffisants; il vote oui pour ne pas entraver la marche des travaux de la Commission.

Le Commissaire de Turquie manifeste sa confiance dans la pleine exécution de la promesse faite par le Colonel Bogolubow. Les topographes Russes ont reçu des saufs-conduits portant qu'ils travaillent pour le service de la Commission: ils continueront à en jouir parce qu'aucune modification n'aura été apportée à cette situation. Son Excellence Tahir Pacha propose ensuite à la Commission d'adjoindre des topographes Ottomans aux officiers Anglais. *M. le Général Hamley* le prie de mettre à sa disposition le Capitaine Cherafetin Effendi.

Le Président déclare l'incident clos; il remet alors à la Commission au nom du Gouvernement Roumain un exemplaire des levés réguliers de la frontière de la Dobroudja exécutés par les topographes Roumains; puis il ouvre la discussion sur la frontière nord de la Bulgarie.

M. le Colonel Orero, prenant le premier la parole, déclare que ses instructions le laissent libre de prendre pour frontière la rive droite ou le thalweg du Danube. Il hésite entre la lettre formelle du Traité et les inconvénients pouvant résulter de son application, et demande avant de se prononcer à connaître l'opinion de ses collègues. Toutefois ses tergiversations prendraient fin, si le Commissaire de Russie en échange de l'abandon gracieux de la moitié du Danube fait à la Bulgarie, renonçait à ses prétensions sur un territoire voisin de Silistrie attribué l'an dernier par la Commission à la Roumanie.

Selon *M. le Colonel Bogolubow* on doit ici considérer l'esprit et non la lettre erronée du texte. Nul doute que les Plénipotentiaires n'eussent enregistré dans leur acte l'abandon à la Roumanie des eaux du Danube à droite du thalweg, s'ils avaient entendu donner tout le fleuve à ladite Principauté; et il faut d'autre part que la moitié droite du Danube appartienne à quelqu'un. Il n'y a d'ailleurs aucun lien entre la question en ce moment débattue et la question de Silistrie, déjà épuisée pour la Commission et sur laquelle elle n'a pas à revenir. Le Commissaire de Russie estime donc que la Commission doit purement et simplement donner pour frontière nord à la Bulgarie le thalweg du Danube.

Le Commandant Lemoine explique comment à son sens le terme "rive droite du Danube" se serait glissé dans la rédaction du texte du Traité. Les Plénipotentiaires d'Autriche-Hongrie avaient demandé que tout le Danube fût neutralisé à partir des Portes de Fer et remis aux mains de la Commission Européenne Danubienne. Le commencement de l'Article II aurait été rédigé avant que cette proposition eût été rapportée et rejetée. On n'aurait plus songé ensuite à régler la question de souveraineté des eaux du Danube. Le Commissaire Français, ayant les mêmes instructions que le Colonel Orero, attendra également pour se prononcer d'avoir l'avis de ses collègues.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp, *M. le Major Comte de Wedel*, et *son Excellence Tahir Pacha* déclarent successivement que leurs instructions les autorisent à donner à la Bulgarie pour frontière le thalweg du Danube. *M. le Général Hamley* demande à réserver son vote.

La question est, en conséquence, renvoyée à la prochaine séance.

Le Président observe que, malgré l'ajournement prononcé, le résultat du vote ne paraît pas douteux: il invite, en conséquence, ses collègues à poursuivre la discussion en exprimant leurs idées sur la proposition formulée par le Colonel Bogolubow touchant la nécessité d'une carte du Danube.

M. le Colonel Baron de Ripp espère obtenir de son Gouvernement dans une quinzaine de jours la carte de la navigation du Danube.

M. le Colonel Orero estime que la Commission pourrait se contenter de donner comme frontière à la Bulgarie l'ancienne frontière de la Turquie, étant entendu que les îles Roumaines resteraient Roumaines, que les îles Turques passeraient sous la dépendance de la Bulgarie.

Ces diverses solutions ne satisfont pas *M. le Colonel Bogolubow*, qui désire comparer la Carte Autrichienne à une carte que dressent en ce moment les topographes Russes et qui sera achevée probablement au commencement du mois de Septembre. Il tient d'ailleurs une carte pour indispensable, attendu qu'elle servirait de point de départ pour le réglement des contestations ultérieures.

Après cet échange d'explications, la Commission renvoie la décision à prendre à la prochaine séance.

Le Président, avant de poursuivre la discussion de l'ordre du jour, croit devoir

relever un passage d'un précédent discours du Colonel Bogolubow. Le Commissaire Russe a déclaré que la question de Silistrie était une question épuisée pour la Commission, qu'elle avait été tranchée par un vote et qu'elle échappait maintenant à la Commission. Le Président lui demande de s'expliquer et de dire s'il a une communication à faire au sujet du point en litige. Le Commissaire Russe ayant répondu qu'il n'avait rien à dire à ce propos pour le moment, le Président observant que dans l'instrument diplomatique réglant les frontières de la Bulgarie il sera nécessaire de rappeler l'acte fixant le tracé de la frontière Roumano-Bulgare, et qu'en supposant même qu'on n'y fît aucune allusion, il faudra définir le point où le thalweg du Danube cessera de constituer la frontière nord de la Bulgarie.

M. le Colonel Orero lui demandant s'il refuserait d'apposer sa signature au bas d'un instrument diplomatique qui viserait la solution précédemment donnée par la Commission à la question en litige, le Commissaire de Russie déclare que dans ces conditions il ne signera pas.

Le Secrétariat donne ensuite lecture du compte-rendu des travaux de la Commission du 13 Mai au 22 Juin:—

"La Commission partie de Constantinople le 13 Mai, arriva à Philippopoli le 14, et à Tatar-Bazardjik le 16. Elle se mit en route le 18, atteignit le même jour Klissoura, et le lendemain Banja, où elle reçut communication des levés topographiques exécutés par les officiers Anglais. Elle résolut de se diviser pour la journée du 20 en deux Sous-Commissions formées autant que possible de Représentants de toutes les Puissances, afin de reconnaître la frontière entre le Cadir-Tépé et la grande route de Banja à Samakov d'une part, et entre cette route et la Velina-Mogila d'autre part.

"Les Commissaires se réunirent le 21 à Samakov, et sur le rapport de Délégations ils arrêtèrent d'un accord unanime le tracé de la frontière dans toute l'étendue du terrain reconnu. Ils décidèrent également qu'aucun Protocole ne serait rédigé au cours du voyage, mais qu'au retour à Constantinople le Secrétariat présenterait un compte-rendu des travaux de la Commission, faisant mention des séances tenues, des résolutions prises, des votes émis par les différents Commissaires et des principaux incidents des discussions. Dans cette même réunion, le Commissaire Ottoman soumit à ses collègues une note, dans laquelle il réclamait pour son Gouvernement le droit d'occuper militairement, dans un but défensif, certains points en arrière de la ligne-frontière, et il invitait la Commission à se prononcer sur la légitimité de ses prétentions. Plusieurs Commissaires déclarèrent qu'ils n'avaient pas à discuter l'organisation défensive de la frontière de la Roumélie, d'autres firent observer qu'une discussion sur un tel sujet ne pouvait être utilement soulevée qu'une fois effectuée la reconnaissance de la zone-frontière; aucune suite ne fut, en conséquence, donnée à la proposition de son Excellence Tahir Pacha.

"La Commission s'étant transportée à Ichtiman le 22, y tint séance le 23, et fixa à l'unanimité le tracé de la frontière entre la Velina-Mogila et le Goura Sivri-Tépé. Elle chargea une Délégation de la reconnaissance du terrain entre le Goura Sivri-Tépé et la grande route de Sophia, laissant à une autre Délégation le soin de parcourir cette route et d'examiner le terrain à droite.

"Les Commissaires parvinrent le 24 à Rakovitza, et le 25 à Smolsko, où ils tinrent séance et fixèrent la ligne-frontière au nord d'Ichtiman. Le Commissaire Français proposa d'abord un tracé par les lignes de faîte séparant les bassins inférieur et supérieur du ruisseau d'Ichtiman-Déré, et englobant d'une part un ravin affluent de la Vallée d'Hadjilar, et d'autre part le ravin isolé qui débouche entre deux Karulas ruinées sises à droite et à gauche de la route à hauteur de l'étranglement de la vallée principale d'Ichtiman-Déré; mais, allant au devant des critiques, il ajoutait qu'on pourrait reprocher à ce tracé d'être entièrement à l'avantage de la Roumélie Orientale. Le Commissaire de Russie proposa effectivement l'incorporation à la Bulgarie du ravin affluent de la Vallée d'Hadjilar. La majorité de la Commission fut d'avis de donner à la Principauté l'un des ravins précités, et, le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne ayant revendiqué pour la Roumélie la possession du ravin à l'est de la grande route de Sophia, elle se prononça dans ce sens. La Commission arrêta dans la même séance le tracé de la frontière jusqu'à la ligne de partage entre le Smolsko-Déré et la Kaménitza.

"Le 26 Mai les Commissaires se transportèrent dans les environs de Petvitchevo pour délimiter, conformément à l'Article II du Traité, une zone de 2 kilom. de rayon en amont du confluent du Smolsko-Déré et de la Topolnitza. L'accord qui ne put se faire sur le terrain fut réalisé dans une séance tenue le 27 à Pirtop, et tous les Commis-

saires tombèrent d'accord pour substituer à la zone de 2 kilom. de rayon un territoire équivalent, limité par des lignes et des accidents naturels du terrain.

"Les Commissaires, en quittant Pirtop le 28, reconnurent la limite des territoires de Pirtop et de Douzantchi en présence des représentants des dites localités, puis il se dirigèrent sur Rachmanli où ils tinrent séance le 29 dès leur arrivée. Après avoir poursuivi le tracé de la frontière jusqu'au mont Kosica, on discuta sur la demande du Commissaire de Turquie, l'opportunité d'une visite de la passe de Rabanitza; en présence des renseignements recueillis, la Commission à la majorité de six voix contre une, celle du Commissaire de Turquie, décida qu'elle s'en référait pour la fixation du tracé aux abords de la passe aux cartes Russes dont elle avait déjà eu de nombreuses occasions constaté l'exactitude. Le Commissaire de Turquie réclama l'incorporation dans le territoire de la Roumélie Orientale des croupes qui s'avancent à droite et à gauche de la passe. Cette proposition mise aux voix fut repoussée, et une autre, donnant la crête militaire jusqu'aux deux sommets les plus voisins à droite et à gauche, fut adoptée à l'unanimité.

"La passe de Trojan fut visitée dans la journée du 30, et la Commission se transporta le lendemain à Karlovo où elle tint séance le 1er Juin. Dans cette réunion, elle se trouva partagée d'avis sur le tracé à adopter dans le voisinage de la passe de Trojan, Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie opinèrent pour tracer la frontière suivant la *crête militaire*; les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de France et de Russie ne jugèrent pas nécessaire à la défense un empiétement sur le versant septentrional. La majorité s'étant constituée en faveur du tracé donnant la *crête militaire* à la Turquie, le Commissaire d'Allemagne déclara y adhérer. A la demande du Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne on agita ensuite la question de l'utilité d'une reconnaissance de la passe de Karlovo (Ostra-Mogila): la majorité trouve la passe trop peu importante pour justifier une telle course.

"Les Commissaires se transportèrent le 2 Juin à Malko-Selo, et le 3 à Chéinovo; ils visitèrent le 4 le passe de Chipka, et parvinrent le même jour à Kézanlik, où ils séjournèrent les journées des 5 et 6. Ils tinrent le 5 une séance dans laquelle fut réglé le tracé de la frontière dans le voisinage de la passe. Au cours de la discussion qui s'engagea à ce sujet, le Commissaire de Turquie proposa un tracé englobant dans le territoire de la Roumélie, indépendamment des positions occupées par les Turcs dans la dernière guerre, certaines positions plus avancées, jugées par lui indispensables à la défense, et s'étendant jusqu'à 3 kilom. environ au nord de la ligne de partage. Le Commissaire de Russie, tout en exprimant l'avis que la défense pouvait s'appuyer sur les positions occupées et fortifiées par les Turcs au sud, à l'est et à l'ouest du St. Nicolas, déclara concéder à la Roumélie Orientale par esprit de conciliation la position de St. Nicolas et de la montagne de Chipka, mais il insista pour laisser en dehors du territoire de la province les emplacements des deux principaux cimetières contenant les corps des soldats Russes tombés dans la dernière guerre, et déclara ne pouvoir se contenter de la neutralisation desdits emplacements. Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie, et de Grande Bretagne, exprimant successivement leur avis, proposèrent ensuite de tracer la frontière par la crête militaire, à partir de la hauteur à l'ouest du mont Malich en englobant et le mont Chipka, et la hauteur d'Ouzoun Kouch située à un ½ kilom. au nord du mont Chipka, et la terrasse avancée du mont Dimir-Tépé appelée Demievitz. Ce tracé, suivant ses auteurs, donne les trois points indispensables à la défense, serre d'aussi près que possible la ligne de partage des eaux; il satisfait enfin aux pieux désirs du Commissaire de Russie. Le Commissaire de France aurait voulu pour la plus grande netteté de la délimitation un tracé rectiligne brisé englobant les trois positions jugées par ses collègues d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie, nécessaires à la défense, mais il n'insista pas et il adhéra à leur proposition. Le Commissaire de Turquie, après avoir déclaré que, ne jugeant pas indispensable à la défense la possession des cimetières, il accédait à la demande exprimée par ses collègues, se rallia à son tour par esprit de conciliation à leur tracé. Le Commissaire de Russie, tout en maintenant l'argumentation présentée par lui au début de la séance, se rangea enfin à l'opinion de la majorité; mais il demanda le libre passage, sur la grande route, du territoire Bulgare aux cimetières, et proposa de placer sous la protection spéciale du Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale d'autres cimetières plus petits laissés sur le territoire de la province. Le tracé de la frontière dans le voisinage de Chipka se trouva finalement adopté à l'unanimité. La Commission passant ensuite à la discussion d'un nouvel itinéraire, décida à la majorité de cinq voix contre deux, celles des Commissaires de Grande Bretagne et de Turquie, qu'elle ne se transporterait pas à la passe de Travna, vu son peu d'importance et l'état des communications.

"Partis de Kézanlik le 7 Juin, les Commissaires se rendirent le même jour à Aikenli et le lendemain à Hainkioj; ils visitèrent le 9 la passe d'Haïn-Boghaz et se transportèrent le 10 à Tvarditza, où ils tinrent séance à leur arrivée.

"Dans cette réunion, on agita le tracé de la frontière à hauteur de la passe de Travna. Le Commissaire de Turquie réclama l'attribution à la Roumélie Orientale de quatre croupes, dont l'une à gauche de la route; le Commissaire de Russie, se fondant sur l'existence d'une position défensive en arrière de la ligne de faîte, soutint qu'il n'y avait pas lieu à porter la frontière en avant de la ligne de partage. Mais sur la proposition du Commissaire d'Italie, la Commission, tenant compte de l'existence d'un sentier qui tourne la position défensive ci-dessus signalée, adopta, à la majorité de six voix contre une, celle du Commissaire de Russie, le tracé suivant la crête militaire. On passa ensuite à la discussion de la passe de Haïn-Boghaz.

"Le Commissaire de Turquie proposa d'attribuer à la Roumélie quatre croupes s'avançant au nord de la ligne de partage et commandant l'accès de la passe d'Haïn-Boghaz, mais le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne réclama un plus grand empiétement sur le versant septentrional, tout en excluant la plus occidentale des quatre susdites croupes. Le Commissaire de Russie demanda qu'on s'en tint à la ligne de partage des eaux. Le Commissaire de France présenta un tracé rectiligne brisé, laissant simplement en Roumélie la croupe à l'est de la route et en Bulgarie un village qu'elle domine; mais les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie, ayant proposé de lui substituer un tracé suivant la crête militaire le long de la même croupe, il se rangea à leur opinion, qui fut finalement adoptée par la Commission par six voix contre une, celle du Commissaire de Russie, après le retrait des propositions des Commissaires de Turquie et de Grande Bretagne. Le Commissaire de Russie motiva son vote contraire en disant qu'il jugeait la passe facile à défendre, vu l'existence de positions en arrière et la longueur du défilé, et qu'il craignait d'affaiblir la défense de la passe en étendant jusqu'à la hauteur en avant la position offerte par la crête.

"La Commission, après avoir reconnu le 11 la passe de Tvarditza se rendit le lendemain à Slivno, où elle discuta dans la journée du 13 le tracé de la frontière à hauteur de la passe de Tvarditza. Le Commissaire de Turquie proposa un tracé se détachant de la ligne de partage pour suivre la crête militaire et contourner un mamelon situé à 2 kilomètres en avant de la ligne de partage. Le Commissaire de Russie demanda, au contraire, qu'on s'en tînt à la ligne de partage des eaux. Le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne proposa à son tour un tracé moins étendu que celui du Commissaire de Turquie; enfin, le Commissaire d'Italie soutint un tracé suivant la crête militaire, lequel fut finalement adopté par la Commission après le rejet par six voix contre une de la proposition du Commissaire du Turquie et le retrait de celle du Commissaire de Grande Bretagne. Votèrent en faveur du tracé proposé par le Commissaire d'Italie, les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Grande Bretagne, et de Turquie. Le Commissaire d'Allemagne s'étant prononcé dans la discussion contre ce tracé, déclara s'abstenir de manière à pouvoir se rallier à la majorité. Le Commissaire de Russie et le Commissaire de France, également d'avis que la défense ne doit pas se porter en avant de la ligne de partage, votèrent contre.

"La journée du 14 fut consacrée à la reconnaissance de la passe de Démir-Kapou. Ayant quitté Slivno le 16, les Commissaires arrivèrent le troisième jour à Kotel, où ils tinrent séance et discutèrent la suite du tracé. Le Commissaire de Turquie demanda qu'on suivît la crête militaire près du Zoupantsi-Mesari-Pass traversé par un chemin praticable aux arabas. Cette proposition mise aux voix fut repoussée par la Commission; les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, et de Russie votèrent non; le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne vota oui avec des restrictions, le Commissaire d'Italie déclara s'abstenir.

"*Le Commissaire de Turquie* proposa également que la frontière suivît la crête militaire dans le voisinage de la passe de Démir-Kapou. La majorité de la Commission par six voix contre une, celle du Commissaire de Russie, fit droit à cette demande. Une troisième proposition du Commissaire de Turquie tendant également à faire suivre à la frontière la crête militaire en avant d'un chemin bordé d'une ligne télégraphique figuré sur la carte Russe à l'est de Démir-Kapou et conduisant de Slivno par Neikova à Stara-Rieka fut ajournée, vu l'insuffisance des renseignements possédés à ce sujet par la Commission.

"La question fut reprise à la séance du 21 Juin, que la Commission tint à Verbitza le lendemain de son arrivée. Les Commissaires reconnurent l'exactitude des premiers renseignements recueillis par le Commissaire Ottoman sur le susdit chemin, mais ils constatèrent l'existence en arrière de la passe d'une excellente position défensive.

Cette raison détermina le Commissaire de Turquie à se rallier à la majorité et la Commission traça la frontière suivant la ligne de partage entre le Déli-Kamtchik d'une part, la Jantra et le Bouyouk-Kamtchik de l'autre, du Démir-Kapou jusqu'à hauteur de la passe de Kotel. Dans le voisinage de cette passe, le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie proposa de s'écarter de la ligne de partage pour englober la surface plane de divers mamelons traversés par la ligne. Son tracé donna lieu à diverses observations de la part du Commissaire de Russie. Celui-ci déclara: (1) que bien qu'il ne jugeât nécessaire à la défense de la passe que l'occupation des deux hauteurs à l'est et à l'ouest de la route, il était disposé à s'incliner devant la majorité, pour les mamelons plus à l'ouest; (2) que bien qu'il dût s'écarter de sa règle de conduite, par esprit de conciliation il concéderait à la Roumélie Orientale la possession d'une partie du tronçon de route été dans la proposition du Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie et qui, attribué à la Bulgarie, pourrait offrir des difficultés d'entretien; (3) mais que cette proposition au-delà du Koulé-Tépé dénaturait le sens du terme 'crête militaire,' et que partant elle était en contradiction avec la résolution votée par la Commission au départ de Constantinople. Il ajouta que dans ces conditions il ne pourrait pas prendre part au vote. Le Président ayant fait observer que l'appréciation du Commissaire de Russie relativement au sens du terme 'limite nord de la crête' employés dans la résolution précitée était une appréciation individuelle, et que la Commission avait déclaré devoir suivre sur le terrain la loi de la majorité, mit aux voix le tracé du Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, qui fut adopté par cinq voix, les Commissaires d'Allemagne et de Russie s'étant abstenus.

"Le tracé de la frontière étant arrêté jusqu'à hauteur de la passe de Verbitza, le Président rappela à la Commission qu'elle devait à partir du lendemain se former en deux Délégations, dont la composition fut réglée comme il suit:—

"*Délégation de l'Est.*—Major Comte de Wedel, Capitaine Podstawski, Commandant Lemoyne, Colonel Orero, Général Hamley, Capitaine Jones, Capitaine Schneur, Major Hassan Bey, Capitaine Cherafetin Effendi;

"*Délégation de l'Ouest.*—Colonel Baron de Ripp, Capitaine Marmier, Capitaine Vicino Pallavicino, Major Ardagh, Colonel Bogolubow, S. E. Tahir Pacha, Simon Papasian Effendi.

"Le lendemain tous les Commissaires se transportèrent sur la passe de Verbitza, et après avoir examiné le terrain, ils discutèrent sur les lieux le tracé de la frontière. Le Commissaire de Turquie proposa de lui faire suivre la crête militaire à partir d'un mamelon situé à 1 kilom. à l'ouest d'une karaoula ruinée, jusqu'à la rencontre de la grande route, dont le bord extérieur formerait ensuite la frontière depuis la karaoula et dans toute la partie de la crête ayant une direction générale nord-sud. Le Commissaire de Grande Bretagne déclara s'en tenir pour cette seconde partie à la crête militaire même, mais il voudrait obtenir également la crête militaire en avant des trois hauteurs (y compris le Tépé-Kioch) qui se trouvent à l'est de la route sur la ligne de partage dans la direction ouest-est. Le Commissaire de France fut d'avis qu'il y avait lieu de s'en tenir à la ligne de partage des eaux, sauf dans quelques points où la route passerait alternativement de la Roumélie dans la Bulgarie. La proposition du Commissaire de Turquie mise aux voix est repoussée par cinq voix contre deux, celles des Commissaires de Grande Bretagne et de Turquie. Il en est de même de la seconde. La troisième proposition est votée par cinq voix contre une voix, celle du Commissaire de Grande Bretagne, et une abstention, celle du Commissaire de Turquie.

"Les Délégations se séparèrent à l'issue de la séance. La Délégation de l'est poursuivit l'exploration de la frontière jusqu'à la Mer Noire et rentra le 3 Juillet à Constantinople. La Délégation de l'ouest, s'étant transportée successivement à Sophia, Kustendil, Égri-Palanka et Djuma, ne regagna Constantinople que le 21 Juillet."

Le compte-rendu est approuvé.

Le Président communique ensuite les propositions du Commissaire Français pour la fixation de la frontière, entre la passe de Verbitza et la Mer Noire.

"Au sud, la frontière de Bulgarie remonte depuis son embouchure dans la Mer Noire, le thalweg du Tchivté-Déré, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Hodjakioj, Aivadjik, Djéferli, et Goulitza (Sudzuluk) et à la Roumélie Orientale ceux de Gések, Jenikioj et Karnandja.

"De la tête de ce thalweg à 2,500 mètres sud-est de Belibe, elle descend, par un petit ravin orienté de l'est à l'ouest, dans le Dermen-Déré dont elle suit le cours jusqu'au coude, où ce ruisseau, coulant précédemment du sud-est au nord-ouest, se redresse vers le nord. La frontière se prolonge ensuite par une suite de ravins et de cols orientés dans une direction générale du sud sud-est au nord nord-ouest, entre le Balaban-Déré et le Délédji-Déré, jusqu'au pied du Pilav-Tépé; elle monte, toujours

dans la même direction, sur le sommet de cette montagne, elle en suit la crête et redescend directement au Déli-Kamtchik, qu'elle coupe en un point situé à 2,830 mètres en amont et à l'ouest de Tchengi, à 1,900 mètres en aval et au nord-est de Hadji-Mahalé. Le village de Belibe et les ruines de Kemhalik restent ainsi à la Bulgarie; les villages de Tchovankioj, Kaïrak-Mahalé et Kosik à la Roumélie Orientale.

"De la rive gauche du Déli-Kamtchik, et par l'arête rocheuse qui aboutit au point indiqué précédemment, la frontière monte sur la crête du Kapi-Baïr. Elle se prolonge alors sur la ligne de partage entre les eaux du Déli-Kamtchik et du Bouyouk-Kamptchik, laissant à la Bulgarie les villages de Aïdos-Bredja, Kaïardi, Lopouchna, Bekchi; et à la Roumélie Orientale ceux de Hadji-Mahalé, Tikenlik, Dochankioj, Karaveliler, Dérékioj et Aïvadjik. Elle suit ensuite le Karnabad-Balkan entre Baïram-Déré et Kérémetli, jusque près du chemin qui mène de Tchuli-Karak dans l'Ak-Déré à Kantchi-Mahalé. La terrasse s'étendant jusqu'à 500 mètres au nord du col que traverse ce chemin, et qui porte le nom de passe de Dobrid, reste à la Roumélie Orientale; puis la frontière rejoint, au nord d'une batterie abandonnée, la crête du Déhéliteh-Balkan et se prolonge sur la ligne de partage des eaux par Tiouta-Baïr, Monainar-Baïr et Tépékioch jusqu'à ce qu'elle rencontre la route de Verbitza à Sungurlar et Jousoulton."

La Commission décide qu'elle discutera ces propositions à la prochaine séance, en même temps qu'elle fixera dans les limites possibles la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Macédoine.

Le Président rappelle enfin que le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès a prescrit à la Commission de donner à la Turquie une communication militaire au travers du territoire de l'ancien Sandjak de Sophia, et de se concerter à ce sujet avec les autorités territoriales. Cette question figurera également à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance.

La Commission donne ensuite au Major Ardagh des instructions pour l'établissement des levés expédiés.

La Commission se sépare à 5 heures, en fixant la prochaine séance au 29 Juillet.

(Signé) WEDEL.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
E. B. HAMLEY.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) P. PODSTAWSKI.
G. MARMIER.
D. JONES.
F. VICINO PALLAVICINO.
N. SCHNEUR.
SIMON PAPASIAN.

No. 364.

M. Bartholomei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 20.)

(Confidentiel.)
M. le Marquis,

Londres, le 7/8 Août, 1879.

J'AI viens de recevoir de St. Pétersbourg l'ordre de vous faire verbalement une communication que, vu votre absence, je devrai reproduire par écrit.

Dans la Commission de Délimitation de la Turquie avec le Monténégro, le Gouvernement Impérial avait adhéré à la proposition Italienne d'indiquer par des bornes faites les points du tracé sur lesquels on serait tombé d'accord et par des marques provisoires les points qui n'auraient pas été acceptés par les deux parties intéressées. La Commission vient d'émettre l'avis qu'il y aurait lieu de se borner à tracer la ligne de démarcation sur une carte spéciale qui serait soumise à la sanction des Cabinets.

L'impatience de la Commission Européenne d'achever sa tâche s'explique naturellement, mais on ne saurait avant tout perdre de vue que les Puissances ont à cœur de faire une œuvre stable et définitive; or, il est évident qu'un tracé théorique, simple sur carte, ne comporterait aucune valeur pratique et laisserait subsister des

causes incessantes de conflit, que le Traité de Berlin avait pour but principal d'écarter définitivement. Guidé par ces considérations le Gouvernement Impérial ne saurait, pour sa part, accepter aucun tracé provisoire qui ne serait pas indiqué sur le terrain par des bornes ou, du moins, des marques bien nettes et visibles.

Le Délégué Russe dans la Commission Turco-Monténégrine est autorisé à faire une déclaration semblable.

Je suis chargé de porter ces faits à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique en lui exposant les motifs qui guident, en cette circonstance, le Cabinet Impérial, et en exprimant l'espoir qu'ils seront pris en due considération et appréciés à leur juste valeur.

Permettez-moi, M. le Marquis, de recommander cet exposé à votre bienveillante attention, et de vous prier de me faire savoir si le point de vue du Gouvernement Russe ne pourrait peut-être pas rencontrer l'assentiment du Gouvernement Britannique et son concours au sein de la Commission Turco-Monténégrine. En tout cas je me permettrai de solliciter une réponse de votre part, car les travaux de cette Commission ont besoin d'être actives, et cela ne saurait avoir lieu que par une entente de toutes les parties co-intéressées.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 365.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August* 19, 1879.

GENERAL VITALIS gave a dinner yesterday to about forty officers of the militia, after a review. The Commissioners, excepting German and myself, were invited, but only M. Contouly and two French Secretaries attended.

After several toasts, beginning with the militia, the General drank the health of the Sovereign of the country, and afterwards that of the Emperor of Russia, who had given him such good officers.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 366.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August* 19, 1879.

WHILE the Director of Finance abstained from attending the Council, the Governor-General and his Bulgarian advisers, in considering number of holidays to be officially kept, settled to have an annual public celebration of the Governor-General's name-day on the 30th August (o.s.). This is a subterfuge for celebrating the fête of the Russian Emperor and Prince of Bulgaria, although Pasha's name is likewise Alexander.

The Director of Finance is endeavouring to upset this arrangement, the tendency of which is obvious.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 367.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August* 19, 1879.

A WEEK ago I mentioned to the Governor-General that the Bulgarian flag was flying over the Government House at Sliunli [? Slivno]. By order of the Governor General it was hauled down, but the populace hoisted it again. The Prefect has resigned, having no means of enforcing his authority. I learn from an English commercial traveller that in many other towns in this province the Bulgarian flag is still flying.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 368.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 20, 1879.

COMMISSION held its last sitting this morning, and, after signing the final documents, is consequently dissolved.

No. 369.

General Hunley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 20, 1879.

CAPTAIN EVERETT just arrived, bringing map of first defile. Russian map complete. Rest of party have gone to Cadirtepe to finish second portion. It is not true that they were fired on, though molested by Bulgarian peasantry. The Captain goes to Trebizond next Friday.

No. 370.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 20, 1879, 11·45 A.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 51, I am informed that Italian Commissioner telegraphed on the 12th instant that, an early meeting of the Commission not being probable, he was going for some days to Constantinople. Count Corti will now be requested to beg him not to prolong his absence, as the Commission is waiting his return to a continuation of its work.

No. 371.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 225.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1879, 3·30 P.M.

HAVE you received any further communication as to the appointment of Baker Pasha?

No. 372.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 226.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1879, 4 P.M.

I MUST ask you to judge of expediency of course recommended by Mr. Michell in his telegram to me No. 58 of the 16th instant, and to advise the Porte accordingly.

I am disposed to think the new Commander should be left to settle the matter, and that it is hardly large enough for foreign interference.

No. 373.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1879, 4·15 P.M.

YOURS No. 58. I have requested Sir H. Layard to take such action as he thinks expedient with respect to your recommendation.

No. 374.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1879, 4·35 P.M.

YOURS 21.

If all the other Commissioners receive authority to re-examine the question of Dobrudscha frontier, and it is agreed that majority shall decide, we have no objection to your taking part.

I informed Russian Chargé d'Affaires to this effect some time back, but I said that I saw no use in your doing so unless the principle of decision by majority was in first instance accepted; and I assured him that there was little probability of your coming to an opinion different from Colonel Home's.

No. 375.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1879, 5·20 P.M.

WE have no doubt of your competence to discuss Turkish military road across Bulgaria. If majority agree with us, you should determine by a vote of the majority the road you recommend, and inform Bulgarian Government. If you have a majority, the retirement of the Russian need not hinder you.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires here has urged abandonment of the claim on the ground that a Protocol was of no binding force if it appeared to have been arrived at on erroneous information. I replied I had no ground for thinking Mehemet Ali's information erroneous, and that I could not admit his doctrine as to the validity of Protocols.

No. 376.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1090.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1879.

YOUR Excellency will have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopolis a duplicate of his telegram to me No. 58 of the 16th instant respecting the conduct of certain officers of the Eastern Roumelian militia, who signed a letter published in the "Maritza" denying that they had drunk the health of the Sultan at a dinner given on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday.

Mr. Michell advises that the Porte should call upon the Governor-General to dismiss these officers, whose names, though not published, could, he says, be procured without difficulty; he also thinks that the editor of the "Maritza" should be punished for the publication of such a document.

I have requested you to use your own judgment as to the expediency of the course recommended, and to advise the Porte accordingly. I am myself disposed to think that the matter is scarcely of sufficient magnitude to call for foreign interference, and that it might be left to be dealt with by the newly-appointed Commander of the Militia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 377.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 38.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 58 of the 16th instant respecting the conduct of certain officers of the Eastern Roumelian militia, who have signed a letter published in the "Maritza" denying that they had drunk the health of the Sultan at the dinner given to celebrate His Majesty's birthday.

I have requested Sir H. Layard to take such action as he may think expedient in regard to your recommendation, that the Porte should call upon the Governor-General to dismiss these officers and to punish the editor of the "Maritza" for the publication of such a document, and I have so informed you by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 378.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 42.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1879.

I LEARN from your telegram No. 21 of the 17th instant that your colleagues on the Commission are applying to their respective Governments for instructions with regard to the reconsideration of the Dobrudscha frontier.

I have informed you by telegraph, in reply, that if the Delegates of all the other Powers should receive authority to re-examine this question, and if it should be further agreed that the points in dispute shall be decided by the vote of the majority, Her Majesty's Government would have no objection to your taking part in the discussion.

I made a statement to this effect to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires some time back. I said, however, that I saw no practical utility in your being authorized to discuss the question unless the principle of decision by the majority were previously accepted. I also warned M. Bartholomei that there was little probability of your coming to a conclusion different from that of Colonel Home.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 379.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 44.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 20, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 20 of the 16th instant, in which you report that the Russian Commissioner has inquired of his Government whether they are ready to admit the competency of the Commission to discuss the question of a right of military road to be granted to Turkey through the Sandjak of Sophia, in accordance with the arrangement recorded in Protocol No. 17 and confirmed in Protocol No. 19 of the Congress of Berlin. You add that, pending a reply, which he has not yet received, the Russian Commissioner threatens to leave the room if the matter is discussed.

I have informed you that Her Majesty's Government can have no doubt of the competency of the Commission to discuss this question. If you should find that a majority of the Commissioners are authorized to uphold the same view, it would be best that the Commission should proceed to determine by a vote of the majority the road which they would recommend, and should inform the Bulgarian Government of the conclusion to which they have come. If a majority of the Commission be prepared to take this course, the withdrawal of the Russian Commissioner would not, in my opinion, be a valid impediment.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires has spoken to me upon this subject, and urged the abandonment of the Turkish claim to a military road, on the ground that a Protocol had no binding force if it were found that the conclusions recorded in it had been arrived at on erroneous information.

I told M. Bartholomei, in reply, that I had no ground for supposing that the

information upon which Mehemet Ali Pasha had based the claim advanced at Berlin was erroneous; and I added that I could not admit the correctness of the doctrine he sought to lay down as to the validity of Protocols.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 380.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20, 11 P.M.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August* 20, 1879.

THE Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has just returned here from St. Petersburgh, tells me that he intends to start for Paris this evening.

He appears to have some hopes of inducing M. Waddington to accept substitution of nomination lists for specification categories of Jews to be immediately emancipated, and has assured me that it will be impossible for the Roumanian Government to submit to the Chambers either the project of categories or one for freeing individual Jews, even when born in the country, from the obligation, on arriving at their majority, of applying to Parliament for the privileges of naturalization.

I told the Roumanian Minister that your Lordship was not in London, that you regretted not having had the opportunity of seeing him, but that you did not consider his last proposals satisfactory.

Since his return here he has seen the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who, he tells me, still objects to these proposals.

No. 381.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, August* 21.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 14 *Août*, 1879.

LE Gouvernement Serbe a adressé au Gouvernement Impérial par l'entremise de la Légation de Serbie une demande d'indemnité s'élevant à la somme de 1,966,308 francs, tant pour les pertes qui auraient été occasionnées aux habitants des frontières par les incursions des Albanais, que pour les dépenses qu'aurait faites le Gouvernement Serbe pour repousser ces incursions.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, péniblement impressionné par une démarche aussi inattendue et aussi peu justifiée, répond par un refus catégorique à la réclamation de la Serbie, et n'hésite pas à croire que les Cabinets Européens seront unanimes pour désapprouver un procédé en opposition avec les idées d'apaisement et les sentiments de conciliation qui devraient présider aux rapports entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté.

Personne n'ignore, et la Sublime Porte ne songe pas à nier, qu'il y ait eu des incursions sur le territoire Serbe de la part des Albanais sur certains points de la frontière Serbe; mais il faut en même temps reconnaître que ces actes, d'ailleurs rapidement réprimés par le Gouvernement Impérial, ont été bien souvent réciproques, et que nos populations ont eu également à souffrir d'entreprises du même genre faites par des bandes Serbes sur notre territoire.

Il convient, en outre, de constater, ce que le Gouvernment Serbe n'aurait point dû méconnaître, que les agressions des Albanais avaient été, sinon justifiées, du moins provoquées par les mesures de rigueur et d'intolérance au moyen desquelles la population Musulmane du territoire annexé à la Serbie a été et est encore empêchée de rentrer dans ses foyers.

En présence de considérations aussi frappantes, et en tenant compte de l'effervescence et du trouble que les dernières transformations politiques ont naturellement excités dans le pays et que le Gouvernement Impérial s'efforce d'apaiser, la réclamation actuelle du Gouvernement Serbe ne saurait être considérée que comme une démarche sans justification.

Je prie votre Excellence de présenter et de développer ces observations au Gouvernement près duquel elle est accréditée, en exprimant l'espoir qu'il fera

connaître à Belgrade le sentiment de désapprobation que la démarche du Gouvernement Serbe a fait naître dans son esprit.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 382.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 227. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1879, 3·50 P.M.

YOURS No. 619.

When the delimitation of the Balkan frontier is complete, I should advise Turks to occupy Bourgas. But this advice must be subject to their intentions about Greece. If they mean to fight on the Greek frontier (which I should think very unwise), they will certainly have a rising in Macedonia. In that case it is for them to decide whether they have sufficient troops to maintain a force at Bourgas, and defend it properly.

No. 383.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 228.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1879, 4 P.M.

YOURS No. 620.

I have no objection to the arrangement you propose as regards Vice-Consulate at Rhodes.

No. 384.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1107. Secret.) *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 619 of the 18th instant, conveying an inquiry from Safvet Pasha whether Her Majesty's Government would still advise the Porte to occupy Bourgas with a military force, now that the Russian evacuation is accomplished.

I have informed you in reply that when the delimitation of the Balkan frontier has been completed, it would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be advisable that the Turkish Government should proceed to the occupation of Bourgas. This advice however must be dependent upon the intentions of the Porte with regard to Greece. If the Sultan or his advisers meditate a course which would be likely to involve a conflict on the Greek frontier (a resolution which Her Majesty's Government would deprecate as extremely unwise), it must be taken as an inevitable consequence that an insurrection will also ensue in Macedonia. It is for the Turkish Government to decide in that case whether the troops at the Sultan's disposal will be sufficient to enable him to maintain a force at Bourgas and to defend it properly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 385.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 39.) *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the language used by you to Prince Tzeretelew with regard to your own proceedings, and to the state of affairs in

Eastern Roumelia, as reported in your Confidential despatch No. 121 of the 29th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 386.

Count Montgelas to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(Private.)
Dear Lord Salisbury, *Belgrave Square, August 20, 1879.*

WE have answered the Russian proposal in respect to Arab-Tabia in the following sense:—

"We also are anxious that the last delimitation difficulty should be overcome. We have given ample proof of our willingness to smooth matters over by making various proposals to Russia. But the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh has declined to accept our proposition touching the decision by majority of votes, although this principle has been worked to general satisfaction in respect of the Balkan delimitation, in spite of the doubts previously expressed by Russia as to its probable success. As on the other hand England declines to refer the matter to the Servian Delimitation Commission because this would be contrary to the stipulations of Berlin, and as we can only look upon such refusal as perfectly justified, we regret not to be able to do otherwise than also to decline the Russian proposition."

I am directed to communicate the above confidentially to you, and remain, &c.
(Signed) R. MONTGELAS.

No. 387.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 21, 1879.*

KARAOURGAN Protocols not yet arrived, and Giers consequently still unable to discuss question. I proposed, however, to Miliutine that he and I should go into the matter, and he has made the following suggestion:—

That a British Commissioner should be associated in the Commission from the point at which divergence in the two maps begins, on condition that he prosecutes his task in a conciliatory spirit, and consents to a delimitation which shall shut the door between Kara and Vezin as effectually on the one side as on the other.

Miliutine's object in this is to prevent the turn eastward in the direction of Medingert being quite as sharp as is required by the Treaty, but he says it is very difficult to settle the matter except on the spot.

My own opinion is that it would facilitate an understanding if a tentative frontier along that part of the line immediately in dispute was laid down on the 1-verst map by the military authorities in London. If traced in an equitable manner, I think it might be accepted here, and it then could be sent as an instruction to the Commission for their general guidance, leaving them at liberty to modify it as their appreciations on the spot might suggest.

No. 388.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 21, 1879.*

THE Austrian Commissioner has received permission or orders to leave, which he does to-morrow, for Vienna. The Austrian Consul is temporarily charged with his duties.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 389.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22, 11·30 A.M.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 22, 1879, 9·20 A.M.*

PLEASE suggest what steps Commission should take for having the Act of Delimitation delivered to the Governments of Turkey and Bulgaria. The only copies as yet signed have been forwarded to Signatory Powers for their own use.

No. 390.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22, 4 P.M.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 22, 1879, 1 P.M.*

COUNT CORTI telegraphs that the Italian Commissioner in Eastern Roumelia remains a few days longer at Constantinople, at the request of the Turkish Government, to give information; that Turkish Commissioners have not yet received their instructions, and that Austrian Commissioner has been ordered to Vienna.

Italian Commissioner returns to Philippopolis next week.

No. 391.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 626.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 22, 1879, 2·5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 226, I have simply warned Safvet Pasha that if the offensive language used with regard to Sultan and the disloyalty displayed by the Russo-Bulgarian officers in East Roumelia be passed over, Sultan's authority contemplated by Treaty of Berlin must soon disappear altogether.

I agree with you in thinking that new Commander should be allowed to settle matter, and that it is not large enough for foreign interference. Some of my colleagues think the same, and that Michell has taken up the matter too strongly. It is one for the consideration of Porte.

No. 392.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Podgoritza, August 22, 1879, 8·15 A.M.*

COMMISSION have just received following letter from Goussigne Plava:—

"We have heard of your mission from the European Powers, and arrival. [? Yet] this demarcation cannot be carried out without the consent of us of Albania, and without representation of Albania provided with formal powers. We will never give our consent to the yielding of a foot of territory to Montenegro. We have agreed to warn you, that you may take your measures. Accordingly this letter was signed and sealed by Chiefs of Ipse, Plav, Jacova, Prisrend, Dibri, and the Government body at Goussigne."

It appears to be a formal communication from the Albanian League. I have been informed that the Turkish authorities have been in secret communication with Goussigne Plava within last few days.

Commission just entered on demarcation of border of Bdete (*sic*) tribe.

Governor of Scutari has announced that his dismissal has been cancelled.

No. 393.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 22, 1879, noon.*

VISIT of Roumanian Foreign Minister to Paris this week will probably determine nature of final legislation on the Jewish problem.

To avoid misapprehension and future complications, it appears desirable that this Foreign Minister, and each of his colleagues here, should distinctly understand whether Powers intend adhering to compromise arrived at at Berlin with Roumanian Minister of Finance, and which, from the despatch of Lord Lyons to your Lordship No. 787, appears to have been accepted by M. Waddington, or whether the Powers will be satisfied instead with promulgation of list of individual naturalizations.

No. 394.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 22, 1879, 4·40 P.M.*

ANSWER of the French Government respecting Commission of Liquidation is not ready, but M. Waddington says that he is going to give instructions to-day to draw it up. He hopes to propose what will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government, but feels that question is a difficult one for him. He manifested a leaning towards the second alternative proposed by your Lordship, namely, to refer the May Report to the Commissioners, &c., but would not speak decidedly.

I communicated to him substance of Mr. Lascelles' telegram No. 118, and urged importance of early answer and acceptance of one of the alternatives.

No. 395.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 480.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 22, 1879.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court stated on the 19th instant that he was instructed to make to me a verbal communication to the following effect:—

The Russian Government had agreed to the proposal made by the Italian member of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission, that those portions of the frontier-line on which the Commission might be able to agree should be indicated by fixed marks, and that the points on which the parties interested may have been unable to come to an agreement should be indicated by provisional marks. The Commission, however, has now come to a resolution that the line of demarcation shall only be traced on a special map, to be subsequently submitted for the decision of the several Governments. The Russian Government think it but natural that the Commission should be anxious for the speedy completion of its task; but in their opinion the primary consideration is the expediency of executing the work in a permanent and definitive manner. They think it is evident that a theoretical frontier-line, traced merely upon a map, would have no practical value, and would leave occasions for incessant disputes, which it was the principal object of the Treaty of Berlin, once for all, to remove. They cannot, therefore, accept, so far as they are concerned, any provisional frontier-line which is not indicated on the ground by regular marks, or at least by very clear and visible signs. The Russian Delegate in the Commission has been authorized to make a declaration to this effect, and the Russian Government trust that the reasons by which they have been guided in coming to the above conclusion will be duly considered and appreciated.

I have thought it right to point out, in reply, that in view of the Treaty of Berlin there is no Montenegrin Boundary Commission, the frontier being left to be settled between Turkey and Montenegro, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty, on the observance of which the Signatory Powers have a right to insist. The mode of settlement must therefore be a question of agreement between the interested parties. Her Majesty's Government have always been of opinion that the best method (in

respect to all points left open by the Treaty) is discussion by a Commission deciding, in last resort, by a vote of the majority.

This opinion we have expressed emphatically to the Porte, but hitherto without avail.

In the face of this refusal of the Porte to agree to the decision of disputed points by a vote of the majority of the Commission, Her Majesty's Government have left their Commissioner free to take such action in the Commission as seemed to him best calculated to insure the completion of the work in some form or other. He has, in our opinion, shown great skill in mediating between the opposite parties, and has been fortunate enough to bring the Commission to a unanimous decision as to the manner in which their operations shall be continued.

Her Majesty's Government entirely concur with that of Russia in the opinion that an absolute deference to the vote of the majority in all questions left open by the Treaty is the speediest and most equitable way of fixing the boundary. But until the Porte can be brought, by diplomatic process to accept this view, Her Majesty's Government see no advantage in arresting the progress of the Commission by attempting to disturb the resolution unanimously adopted on the 21st ultimo.

A communication to the above effect has this day been made to M. Bartholomei.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 396.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1113. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 22, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches Nos. 705 and 708, both marked Confidential, of the 7th and 8th instants, relative to the disposition of the Kurdish tribes in the neighbourhood of the Turco-Persian frontier, and to suspected Russian intrigues in Armenia.

In view of the attitude both of the Russian and Persian authorities in those parts, it appears to Her Majesty's Government to be of the utmost importance to the Sultan's interests that a vigorous military commander should be appointed for the districts on the frontier of Kurdistan.

I have consequently requested you by telegraph to urge earnestly upon His Majesty the expediency of giving to Baker Pasha without delay a commission investing him with full authority for this purpose.

There does not seem to be ground to apprehend an invasion of Turkish territory by either of the Powers I have mentioned; but it is very possible that they may succeed in producing a condition of permanent anarchy which would entirely alienate the provinces from the allegiance of the Porte, and would result in a crisis whenever any fresh rising occurs among the tribes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 397.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 22, 1879, 11 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatches Nos. 705 and 708, in view of the attitude of both Persians and Russians on the frontier of Kurdistan, it is of the utmost importance to Turkey to have a vigorous military commander in charge of those districts. Urge earnestly on the Sultan the importance of giving Baker his commission speedily, with full authority.

I am not afraid that either of the Powers mentioned will invade, but they may produce a condition of permanent anarchy, which will entirely alienate province from the Porte, and produce a crisis at the next rising.

No. 398.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 106. Political.)

Scutari, August 11, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Boundary Commission having now proceeded from the western to the eastern side of Lake Scutari, it is probable that before long it will have marked out the frontiers on the plain of Podgoritza and around the Kuci districts, when a point will be attained where both the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities will disclaim all responsibility for the safety of the Commissioners, on the ground of the opposition likely to be met with from the inhabitants of the Goussinjé and Plava territories.

As the season is already too advanced to justify any further considerable detention the Commission will most likely determine to turn away from the disturbed localities, and to carry its work northwards, round to the Herzegovina, where, it is believed, the Austrian and Montenegrin Governments have already smoothed away all the difficulties for the progress of the Commissioners.

Whilst admitting that it is one of the most important cares of the Boundary Commission to avoid exposing any of its members to personal danger which might give rise to additional complications, and whilst also knowing that the Porte is searching the means for opening negotiations with Montenegro concerning the retention of Goussinjé, I still venture to point out to your Lordship my belief that no excuse whatever should be accepted from either the Turkish or Montenegrin Governments for leaving any portion of the new boundaries unsettled for another year.

If an immediate understanding cannot be arrived at between the two interested countries, the Turkish Government had better face the fact that the limits fixed by the Treaty of Berlin will have to be carried out, and abandon a policy of inaction which has plunged North-Eastern Albania into anarchy. I am convinced that it is only necessary for the Porte to cease from apparently conniving at a resistance which, for the moment, appears to have avoided the cession of two small towns, hardly worthy of the name of European villages, for most of the populations who are now so loudly publishing their opposition, to subside into the humiliating silence which distinguished them when Podgoritza and Spuz were surrendered.

But, admitting that a certain amount of resistance would be encountered by the Ottoman authorities and troops, it would only be as the smarting of the cauterizing iron, and bring to a healthy state a province which has suddenly been allowed to lapse into the condition of the Herzegovina and Bosnia four years ago, when the action of the European Powers became necessary.

During the whole of that period of four years the state of Northern Albania, notwithstanding the storms raging around, was fairly satisfactory, and, consequently, at the Congress of Berlin no very special decisions were taken about it. But no sooner have measures been adopted for rendering Bosnia and the Herzegovina supportable neighbours, and that the Albanian frontiers touch closer properly constituted Governments, than the Ottoman authorities proclaim their inability to restrain their subjects here, and seek to prove the general confusion of affairs.

In pointing out these facts to the Turkish officials with whom I come in contact, and explaining the opening they afford for a repetition of the intervention of neighbouring States, I am invariably met with the excuse that the restoration of order would require the employment of 80 or 100 battalions, and that the Porte is not justified in incurring the expense.

The loss of the present season for the final settlement of the Montenegrin boundaries I firmly believe is capable of leading to the loss by Turkey of North Albania. It can hardly be doubted that by a persistence in the present policy considerable success can be achieved in nine months by the Porte in proving its inability to overcome the existing anarchy, and, therefore, also in convincing those anxious for the restoration of order that it must be secured by other means.

I am as equally sure that as soon as the Ottoman Government comprehends the true state of affairs, and really exerts itself to place Montenegro in possession of the territory ceded to it, the turbulence and licence radiating from Goussinjé, Ipek, and Jacova will dissipate like a mist before the sun.

Should the demarcation of the Montenegrin frontiers remain incomplete at the approach of winter, I am disposed to respectfully suggest to your Lordship that the Boundary Commission should not be allowed to disperse until all hope of inducing the Porte to make an effort, such as I recommend, has disappeared; for the departure of

the Commissioners would be accepted as a proof, by those who are managing the present opposition, of the success of their proceedings, and next year, on the return of the Commission, if the Porte should then be tempted to invite it back again, the existing evils would probably only be found to have increased a hundredfold.

The extent of frontier skirting Goussinjé and Plava is really so limited that when once it could be approached in safety only a few days would be required to define it, and the work therefore might be carried out, even during the very last days of autumn.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 399.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 891.)

Paris, August 22, 1879.

My Lord,

AS I was leaving the Embassy to proceed to the French Foreign Office this afternoon M. Callimaki Catargi met me, and having stated that M. Boerescu was to arrive in Paris this evening, he asked when and where the latter could see your Lordship.

I answered that all I could say was, what, indeed, I believed had been already communicated to M. Boerescu by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, that your Lordship would not be in London when M. Boerescu contemplated visiting that capital, but that his proposals on the Jew question were wholly unsatisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

On my mentioning this to M. Waddington his Excellency said that he had agreed to see M. Boerescu at 3 to-morrow afternoon, and that if I would call an hour later he would let me know what had taken place.

On my hinting that from what I had heard from Berlin it would appear that M. Boerescu had some hopes of inducing his Excellency to accept his proposals, M. Waddington said very decidedly that he could hardly believe this, and that he certainly intended to stick to the Stourdza proposals.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 400.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 627.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 22, 1879, 8 P.M.

RUSSIAN Ambassador has communicated to the Porte Circular of his Government requesting that Servian Delimitation Commission shall deal with the question of Arab-Tabia. Safvet Pasha tells me that he shall act with England and Austria in the matter and decline to accede to the proposal.

No. 401.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 628.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 22, 1879, 10 P.M.

IT was very unfortunate that the "Times" prematurely announced appointment of Baker Pasha, as the matter was being satisfactorily arranged between the Sultan and myself. Now all our enemies are representing to His Majesty that we have flooded Asia Minor with military Consuls, and want Baker named in order to enable England to take possession of Armenia, &c. Although this has very much increased the difficulties in my way, I still hope by some pressure to overcome them.

No. 402.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 23, 2 P.M.)

(No. 71.) *Therapia, August* 23, 1879, 11·55 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN map (inclosure in Lord Dufferin's No. 365), purporting to show frontier of Russo-Turkish Commission, is a falsified document.

Giers, whether wilfully or not, appears deplorably ignorant of question. If it is wilfulness, he has been trying to deceive Lord Dufferin by a spurious map; if unpremeditated, Russians have been neglectful of their duty in keeping him in ignorance for nearly three months of real frontier agreed upon by the Russo-Turkish Commission and of the Protocols of Tripartite Commission.

I am curious to examine correctness of the second Russian map promised to be forwarded to your Lordship by Lord Dufferin on the 11th August.

No. 404.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 23, 6 P.M.)

(No. 135.) *Paris, August* 23, 1879, 3·40 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

M. BOERESCO has just been with me. He said that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin had told him that your Lordship was not in London, and that his proposals were not acceptable. I said that I could only give him the same information, and could not enter into any argument. Notwithstanding this he begged me to telegraph to your Lordship as follows:—

"He was painfully affected by the communication from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, and would much regret if your Lordship should condemn his proposals without allowing him personally to add the explanations of which they stand in need.

"He would also regret having to return to Bucharest after having fulfilled his mission everywhere but in England. He intended to be five or six days."

No. 405.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 631.) *Therapia, August* 23, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

COMMISSIONERS for rectification of Greek frontier held first meeting yesterday. They made preliminary arrangements, and agreed to meet again next Thursday. Greek Commissioners handed in a declaration to the effect that they resume negotiations from point at which they were broken off at Prevesa, and they cannot come to any understanding as to new frontier-line which is not based upon stipulations of 13th Protocol, that is to say, upon the valleys of Kalamas-Peneus.

They invite the Turkish Plenipotentiaries to declare on their side if they accept proposed basis.

No. 406.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 136.) *Paris, August* 23, 1879, 6·10 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

M. WADDINGTON has told M. Boeresco that he could hold out no hopes of accepting lists; that any category, however small, implying a right, would be infinitely more acceptable than lists, which open the way to corruption; that the period for naturalization is too long; that he will act entirely in concert with London and Berlin.

M. Boeresco earnestly requested M. Waddington to use his influence to prevail on your Lordship to receive him, as otherwise it would produce a bad effect and weaken him on his return to Bucharest.

M. Waddington begged me to inform your Lordship of this, and added that he did think there was something to be said in favour of M. Boeresco's request.

No. 407.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 62 ?.) *Filibé, August* 23, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

THE French Commissioner has telegraphed, as President, to the Italian Commissioner inviting him to attend a meeting on Wednesday next to consider motion respecting Customs service. It is also necessary that the Commission, before adjourning or dissolving, should obtain discharge of [group wrong] Governor-General in regard to provincial funds handed over.

The German Commissioner has been authorized to repair to Constantinople if the activity of the Commission remains suspended. He intends to leave [? on] Thursday if Italian does not return.

It seems to me that the Commission ought not to break up, even temporarily, without passing through formality to that effect, and, therefore, the Italian ought to return. It also appears desirable to place on record the Governor-General's contempt of the decisions of the Commission, and to place on record existence of an illegally armed body of peasants.

No. 408.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 6.) *Bucharest, August* 24, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

BOTH Chambers met *pro formâ* yesterday, but adjourned till Tuesday, the 2nd September (N.S.), when Foreign Minister is expected back, and business will probably commence.

No. 409.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 25. Political.) *Erzeroum, August* 8, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch of the 7th July to Her Majesty's Ambassador (copy of which was sent to your Lordship), I addressed his Excellency at some length on the subject of the composition of the Council of Reforms for the Erzeroum Vilayet, which I stated in a postscript, dated the 12th July, was to consist of thirty-eight members, ten of whom were Christians.* This Council held its first meeting on the 14th ultimo, some days prior to which the Archbishop and an influential Armenian deputation had presented the Imperial Commission with a cut and dried project of reform, of which I had the honour to forward his Excellency a translation with my despatch of the 2nd August.

His Excellency will, doubtless, have observed that the leading principle throughout the Armenian project is, that the Armenians in this vilayet shall hold at least half of the official and judicial posts connected therewith, their claim being based on the grounds that the nomad Kurds have no claim whatever to representation. I have in a former despatch given the official record of the male population as—

Mussulmans	197,760
Non-Mussulmans	55,045

The Armenians claim that there are—

Christians	195,500
Turks (Circassians, &c.)	185,000
Kurds (settled and nomad)	112,500
Yezidis (including males and females)	5,000

* Viz., 7 Armenian, 1 Catholic, 1 Greek, 1 Protestant

The Reform Commission has held but few sittings, at one of which the Mussulmans presented their written project of reform, and at subsequent meetings important discussions have taken place on some points connected therewith. The Armenians have, as a body, under some pretext or another, held aloof from nearly all the meetings, and on the 6th instant I was officially informed by the Bishop's deputy and some other Armenian notables that at a meeting of the Armenian Council it had been finally decided, as a protest against the majority of Moslem members on the Council, that the Armenian Delegates should take no part whatever in the Council, and should abstain from all further attendance on it. At the same time a letter was handed to me from the Bishop, in Armenian, a translation of which I now inclose for your Lordship's information.

I told the deputation that I thought the Armenians had put themselves quite in the wrong. Admittedly the Imperial Commission was trying to work for their benefit, and it was, therefore, their duty to do all they could to forward the work of the Commission, instead of throwing obstacles in the way. They replied that it was now too late to retract, as the matter had already been settled in their Council, and their official protest had already been handed to the Imperial Commissioners. So I suggested that, next time they wanted advice on such subjects, they had better come to me before a decision was arrived at, and not afterwards, when it was too late.

I understand that the Catholic and the Greek representatives on the Council of Reform have also abstained from attending its meetings. The only Christian member who has regularly attended is the Protestant Deputy, who informs me that at the three or four meetings that have taken place the discussions have been of a trifling and unimportant nature.

I omitted to mention before to your Lordship that, prior to the first meeting of this Council, I applied to the Imperial Commissioners to be present at the opening meeting. After discussion, they informed me that they could not accede to my request, as, if granted, the Russian and French Consuls might put in a claim to be present. As I never anticipated that any beneficial action would accrue from the meeting of this Council (*vide* copy of my despatch of the 7th July), I did not deem the matter of sufficient importance to press that my demand should be complied with. It is desirable, however, that your Lordship should know that the request was made and was refused.

The Geghi Sub-Commission has held several meetings lately under the presidency of one or other of the Imperial Commissioners, and it is to be hoped that sufficient evidence will be forthcoming to warrant the Commissioners committing for trial some of the local Beys. The Commissioners declare they have no power to do more.

Affording a striking and most favourable contrast to the method of procedure of the Erzeroum Commission is the action of the Diarbekir Commission, who began work some weeks later than those of Erzeroum. I had the satisfaction of receiving last night two telegrams from Diarbekir, dated 6th August, one from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian, and the other from a friend, informing me that on the night of the 5th instant twenty-three of the principal Kurdish Chiefs of the Diarbekir Vilayet, up till then in arrest in Diarbekir, were suddenly exiled to Albania, their families are to follow. Amongst these Chiefs are the names of several that will be known to your Lordship from my despatches from Diarbekir, viz., Hamid Agha, of Sert, Sultan Tello, of Gharzan, Osman Timur, of Midyad, and others. Mr. Boyajian further states in his telegram: "Other Chiefs will follow; this proves Abedin Bey's sincerity; one great reform accomplished; people rejoicing."

In connection with this matter, I have telegraphed this day to Mr. Boyajian:—

"Congratulate Abedin Bey from me on the result of his labours, and express hope that he will act with equal energy against corrupt officials."

The Erzeroum Commission have also this week been making an investigation into the alleged misconduct of the Kaimakam of Ispir, which is likely to result in his conviction for serious offences.

In the Progress Report of the Commissioners, which I forwarded with my despatch No. 23, Political, of the 1st August, the Commissioners claim credit (paragraph 11) for the exile of a certain Mahmoud Agha, of Geghi, for three years, whereas in a former despatch I had stated that the sole result of their labours hitherto *in re* Geghi had been the arrest of one of the less influential Aghas. I now learn that this Mahmoud Agha has been in prison here for six months awaiting trial. He was arrested by Ismail Pasha, the late Vali, long before the Imperial Commission was thought of.

I have in former despatches stated that great dissatisfaction was felt in the

districts at the non-payment of hire for carts impressed by Government for the transport of the refugees from Russian territory. The Imperial Commissioners made representations to the Vali on the subject, and the latter, after learning that in other parts of the country the Government has been paying hire under similar circumstances, has at last agreed to do so himself, and in future payment will be made at the rate of 12 piastres per cart per diem.

Captain Clayton, Vice-Consul for Van, who left this on the 26th ultimo for Moosh, wrote me a few lines from Chynys on the 29th that in passing through the Mahommedan village of Aghveran he learned that 950 families of refugees from Kars, &c., were to be located in that neighbourhood, of which about 350 had already arrived.

Captain Clayton also reports that between Chynys and Moosh, near the frontier of the Van Vilayet, are said to be 70 or 80 families of refugees, mostly Circassian robbers.

A caravan was plundered by Circassians two days ago within a few miles of Erzeroum, and fifteen horses stolen, with which the robbers decamped in the direction of Sivas. The Persian caravan road near Bayazid is just now frequented by numerous robbers, in both Turkish and Persian territory. A few days ago, near Bayazid, four Persians were robbed and stripped by Kurdish robbers. One of the four was wounded and has since died. These little facts show the urgent necessity that exists for the introduction of a reformed gendarmerie.

About a week ago, at Marna Khatoun, near Erzinghian, an Armenian had eloped with a young Mussulman woman; they disappeared and have not since been heard of, but it is believed they have fled to Russia. The case caused great excitement among the Mahommedans, who were loudly threatening vengeance; in order to appease and restrain them the Kaimakam appears to have thrown three or four of the Christian notables of Marna Khatoun into prison. The Pasha has sent a squadron of cavalry to restore order, and I hope now to hear that the Christians have been released and order restored.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 409.

The Archbishop of Erzeroum to Major Trotter.

(Translation.)
Noble and Illustrious Sir, *Erzeroum, July 22, 1879, o.s.*

I HAVE to-day protested to the Imperial Commissioners against the formation of the local Reform Commission. It is the duty of the said Commission to study the wants of the province, and to report truthfully thereon to the Sublime Porte.

Disregarding the laws of equality of the different races, according to which the Commission should have been composed of equal numbers of Turks and Armenians, or Moslems and non-Moslems, importance only has been given to the Moslems in the Commission, who are four times as numerous as the Christians. It is surprising that the Kurds, who neither pay taxes nor supply conscripts to the army, and who lead a life of brigandage and barbarism, have been counted as Moslems.

Seeing that in this country the Christian population have always suffered oppression, the preponderance of Moslems on the local Commission is likely to be the cause of a continuance of such oppression, and as it is to the interest of the Moslems to do so, it may be supposed that they are in consequence quite satisfied with the manner in which the Commission is formed. The Moslem members of the Commission being more numerous than the Christians, of course any proposal the latter may make for the benefit of all communities in the country, the former, being more numerous, will object to it.

I hereby inform your Excellency of the protest I have made as above, and beg that you will communicate the same to the mighty Government you represent in Erzeroum, and which is pledged to ameliorate the condition of the Armenian nation according to the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HAROUTOUN, *Armenian Archbishop.*

No. 410.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 523.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 18, 1879.

BARON ORCZY told me to-day that he had been directed to inform Prince Reuss and myself that Count Andrassy entirely concurred with your Lordship in considering it impossible to agree to the proposal for referring the question of the frontier at Arab-Tabia to the Servian Commission, which did not exist by virtue of the Treaty of Berlin. The intimation that the decision of the Servian Commission would only be conclusive in the event of unanimity among its members would, he said, of itself have been sufficient to make it necessary to reject it, but in reply to my question whether, if the Russian Government should agree to the majority principle, Count Andrassy would accept the proposal, Baron Orczy said that he would not, as he did not consider the Servian Commission to be the proper Tribunal for deciding upon the question.

Before Baron Orczy had communicated to Prince Reuss Count Andrassy's decision, I asked my colleague whether he was acquainted with the views of his Government on the question, and he told me that he understood them to intend to follow the line that might be adopted by Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 411.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 527. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 19, 1879.

BARON KALLAY, the Austro-Hungarian member of the East Roumelian Commission, is, I am informed, about to return to Vienna.

In reply to an inquiry he made of his Government whether it is intended that the Commission is to continue in existence, he has been informed that no decision upon that point has yet been come to, but at the same time he has been given to understand that no wish is entertained here for its indefinite prolongation.

He is, however, directed for the moment to present the Imperial Consul at Philippopolis to the Commission as representing him in his absence.

It seems to be hoped by this Government that the Commission will be gradually allowed to die a natural death.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 412.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 528. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 20, 1879.

M. FONTOW, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, has been strongly pressing the Austrian Government to consent that the question of the Montenegrin frontier in the neighbourhood of Mirkovics should be again referred to the Commission, and that the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner should be directed to revert to his first opinion, which was in favour of including the district or tribe of Mirkovics within the Montenegrin territory.

He was informed that the proposal could not be entertained, and that, moreover, if the question were again to be brought before the Commission, the Austrian Delegate would be instructed to adhere to the decision come to on the 7th instant by the majority of the Commission.

The Imperial Delegate had, in the first instance, favoured the line advocated by the Russians and Montenegrins, but having requested to be informed of the views of his Government, he was told that, as the Treaty provided that the line should run

"directly" from Gorica Topal to the crest of the mountain, it was necessary that the frontier should be drawn in accordance with it.

I observed to Baron Calice that the proposal of the Russian Government did not altogether differ from what I had understood from Count Andrassy to be his intention in consenting to the provisional marking out of the disputed parts of the frontier, for he had told me that he considered that, after the Commission had concluded the rest of its work, it should return to the disputed frontier, and definitely decide it by a vote of the majority.

Baron Calice said that he was not aware of this being Count Andrassy's intention, but if it was carried out the Austrian Commissioner would of course be directed to act upon the instructions he had already received, by adhering to the line indicated in the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 413.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 413.)
My Lord,

Berlin, August 20, 1879.

M. BOERESCO, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, whose departure for St. Petersburgh I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship in my despatch No. 398 of the 11th instant, has returned to Berlin, and intends, he tells me, to start for Paris this evening.

His Excellency appears to have some slight hopes of being able to persuade M. Waddington to take into favourable consideration his proposal to substitute, for the original plan of granting immediate emancipation to Jews coming under certain categories, one by which a limited number would be selected for emancipation, and a list of their names published.

M. Boerescó said that he felt convinced that it would be impossible for the Roumanian Government to submit to the Chambers either the project of categories or the proposal to free individual Jews, even when born in the country, from the obligation of applying to Parliament on attaining their majority for the privilege of naturalization.

I informed his Excellency that your Lordship was not at present in London, and that, much as you would regret not having an opportunity of seeing him, you felt that, looking to the unsatisfactory nature of the proposals which it had been his intention to submit to your Lordship, a visit to England would not in any case have produced a result calculated to repay him for the trouble of going there.

I gathered from my conversation with M. Boerescó that his proposal had not found any favour with the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 414.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 806.)
My Lord,

Paris, August 23, 1879.

M. BOERESCO called upon me this afternoon with M. Callimáki Catargi, and spoke to me at some length respecting his mission to various Courts of Europe, in reference to the proposals of the present Roumanian Ministry with regard to the question of the emancipation of the Jews in his country.

M. Boerescó declared very positively that his Government were determined to carry out in principle the Article of the Treaty of Berlin relating to this matter, and he was at some pains to show that they considered that by these proposals they were in fact carrying it out as far as was possible at the present moment, and as far as the feeling of the Chambers and of the country would permit them.

His Excellency said that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin had told him that your Lordship was not in London, and that you considered that these proposals could not be accepted by Her Majesty's Government.

I remarked that I could only give him the same information as Sir John Walsham, that I was ready to listen to what he had to say, but that I must tell him plainly that I could enter into no argument on the subject.

M. Boerescо quite admitted this, but he said that he was very anxious to be received by your Lordship, and he begged me to inform you by telegraph that he had been painfully affected by the communication made to him by Sir John Walsham, and that he should feel much regret were your Lordship to condemn the proposals which he had brought without permitting him personally to complete them by the explanations of which they stood in need; that besides this he should regret exceedingly to be obliged to return to Bucharest after having fulfilled his mission in every country but England.

I felt that I could not well refuse M. Boerescо's request, and I accordingly addressed to your Lordship my telegram of 3:40 P.M.

M. Boerescо told me that he intended to remain most of next week in Paris, and that he would be glad if your Lordship would favour him with an answer to his request for a personal interview.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 415.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 898.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 23, 1879.

I SAW M. Waddington late this afternoon, when M. Boerescо and M. Callimaki Catargi had left him after a long interview.

M. Boerescо, as I gathered from M. Waddington, went over much the same ground as he had done with me, but at greater length.

M. Waddington told me that he had informed M. Boerescо that he could hold out no hopes to him of agreeing to the proposal of the present Roumanian Government to substitute lists of individual Jews for the categories formerly proposed by M. Stourdza; that any category, however small, which of itself implied a right to emancipation, was, in his opinion, infinitely more acceptable than the principle of lists, which opened the door to corruption; that he considered that ten years' residence as the period necessary to enable a Jew to be naturalized was much too long a period; finally, that in this question he would do nothing except in concert with the Cabinets of London and Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 416.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 899.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 23, 1879.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to report that M. Waddington told me that M. Boerescо made a special appeal to him to use any influence which he might possess with your Lordship to induce you to favour him with a personal interview, alleging that he felt that, if he returned to Bucharest after having fulfilled his mission at all the other Courts which he had visited, and yet had not been permitted to plead his cause with your Lordship, this would have a bad effect, and would besides weaken his own position.

M. Waddington requested me to report these observations of M. Boerescо to your Lordship, and to add that he certainly thought that there was some force in them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 417.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Fitibé, August* 23, 1879.

GENERAL VITALIS has addressed a letter to the Governor-General stating that, as he has failed to procure names of officers who insulted the Sultan in the "Maritza," he leaves the matter in the hands of his Excellency, as the direct Representative of his Sovereign, in order that he may take such steps as may be necessary in order to preserve from outrage the dignity of the Sultan.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 418.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 25, 1879, 1·20 P.M.

MAJOR ANDERSON and party may now return home.

No. 419.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 25, 1879, 2·20 P.M.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh:—

"Karaourgan Protocols not yet arrived, and Giers consequently still unable to discuss question. I proposed, however, to Milutine that he and I should go into the matter, and he has made the following suggestion: That a British Commissioner should be associated in the Commission from the point at which divergence in the two maps begins on condition that he consents to a delimitation which shall shut the doors between Kara and Vezin as effectually on the one side as on the other. Milutine's object in this is to prevent the turn eastward in the direction of Medingert being quite as sharp as is required by the Treaty, but he says that it is very difficult to settle the matter except on the spot. My own opinion is that it would facilitate an understanding if a tentative frontier along that part of the line immediately in dispute was laid down on the 1-verst map by the military authorities in London. If traced in an equitable manner I think it might be accepted here, and it then could be sent as an instruction to the Commission for their general guidance, leaving them to modify it as their appreciations on the spot might suggest."

Do you think such a provisional arrangement as Lord Dufferin suggests would be practicable?

No. 420.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 25, 1879, 2·50 P.M.

YOURS No. 129.

I have sent the papers to Sir L. Simmons to see if he can draw such a line as you suggest, and have also repeated the substance of your telegram to Colonel Clarke.

No. 421.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 477.)
Foreign Office, August 25, 1879.

My Lord,

IN your Excellency's telegram No. 129 of the 21st instant, reporting your conversation with M. de Miliutine, relative to the difficulty which has arisen in the settlement of the position of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey near Karaourgan, your Excellency expresses the opinion that, if a tentative frontier for that part of the line were laid down on the Russian 1-verst map by the military authorities in London, it might not improbably be accepted by the Russian Government, and might then be sent to the Commissioners as an instruction for their general guidance, subject to any modifications which might be found necessary on an examination of the ground.

I have this day informed your Excellency, in reply, that the papers on this subject have been referred to Sir L. Simmons, with a view of ascertaining whether the proposed course was practicable, and that I had likewise communicated the substance of your Excellency's telegram to Colonel Clarke, for his opinion as to the practicability of this plan for settling the difference which has arisen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 422.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Clarke.

(No. 64.)
Foreign Office, August 25, 1879.

Sir,

IT appears from a telegram received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, the substance of which has this day been repeated to you, that, owing to the non-arrival of the Protocols of the Asiatic Frontier Commission, M. Giers has been unable to discuss with Lord Dufferin the question of the frontier in the neighbourhood of Karaourgan. His Excellency had, however, gone into the matter with M. de Miliutine, and the latter had suggested that a British Commissioner should be associated in the Commission from the point where a divergence occurs in the maps held respectively by the Russian and Turkish Delegates, provided always that the British Commissioner should be willing to agree to a delimitation which would close the door between Karaourgan and Vezin as effectually on the one side as on the other. Lord Dufferin believes M. de Miliutine's object in making this proposal to be to prevent the eastward turn of the frontier line towards Medjingest being quite as sharp as would result from a strict observance of the terms of the Treaty. M. de Miliutine stated, however, that the matter, in his opinion, is a difficult one to settle except on the spot.

Lord Dufferin suggests that an understanding might be facilitated if a tentative frontier were laid down by the military authorities in London on the 1-verst map for that part of the line immediately in dispute. He is of opinion that such a line might be accepted at St. Petersburgh, if traced in an equitable manner, and that it might subsequently be sent to the Commissioners as an instruction for their general guidance, leaving them power to make such modifications as might appear to them necessary, after an examination of the ground.

I have requested you to give me your opinion whether a provisional arrangement, such as Lord Dufferin suggests, would be practicable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 423.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 89.)
Foreign Office, August 25, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 228 of the 6th instant, calling attention to the notification sent to the Servian Government by the Prince of Bulgaria of His Highness' intention to send an accredited Agent to Belgrade.

With reference to the point raised by you, I have to state that such an Agent can

have no diplomatic rank whatever, and cannot be recognized as possessing such rank by the Representative of any other State.

But I do not consider that it will be necessary that you should take any action in the matter unless the Porte takes formal notice of the proceedings of the vassal State.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 424.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 732.)
Therapia, August 17, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note from Safvet Pasha, informing me that he, together with Ali Sahib Pasha, Grand Master of Artillery, and Sawas Pasha, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, have been appointed Turkish Commissioners for the settlement of the Greek frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 424.

Safvet Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sublime Porte, le 16 *Août*, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

PAR une note identique en date du 21 Juin leurs Excellences les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin ont bien voulu informer la Sublime Porte que les Conférences de Preveza n'ayant pu amener une entente entre la Turquie et la Grèce sur la rectification de la frontière Hellénique, il était nécessaire d'en reprendre les négociations à Constantinople même, en nommant les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans chargés d'entrer en relations avec ceux du Gouvernement Hellénique.

En réponse, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que la Sublime Porte, conformément au vœu exprimé dans le Congrès de Berlin, et animé du désir sincère de conserver des rapports de bon voisinage avec la Grèce, adhère à la proposition des Grandes Puissances, en donnant ainsi une nouvelle preuve de l'esprit de conciliation qui l'a toujours guidée dans cette importante question.

A cet effet, je viens d'être nommé, par Ordonnance Impériale, conjointement avec leurs Excellences Ali Sahib Pacha, Grand Maître d'Artillerie, et Sawas Pacha, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Plénipotentiaire de la Sublime Porte.

J'aurai l'honneur de prévenir incessamment MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques du jour de notre première réunion.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 425.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 735.)
Therapia, August 17, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have communicated to the Porte the substance of Mr. Consul Zohrab's despatch No. 28 of the 17th ultimo relative to the necessity of maintaining an efficient garrison at Jeddah. Mr. Zohrab has, I believe, already sent a copy of this despatch to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 426.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 26.*)

(No. 736.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a project for the better government of the country, which has been drawn up by the Armenian community in Asia, and presented by them to the Imperial Commissioners at Erzeroum. This project has been communicated to me by Major Trotter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 426.

Armenian Project of Reforms.

Excellences,

LA nation Arménienne, qui, dès son assujettissement, a été la plus fidèle, la plus paisible, et la plus laborieuse communauté dans toutes les provinces qu'elle habite, et qui n'ayant jamais manqué de satisfaire par ses services dévoués le Gouvernement Impérial, a aujourd'hui l'honneur de témoigner ses remercîments à vos Excellences à l'occasion de cette haute Commission dont elles sont chargées à l'effet d'exécuter toutes les réformes urgentes, que l'état de notre province exige.

Le peuple Arménien de notre province est plein d'espoir que vos Excellences, en conformité du désir de Sa Majesté le Sultan, notre Souverain, prennent à tâche d'étudier et de s'informer exactement des besoins du pays, et agissent en conséquence de manière à le mettre en voie de prospérité, en garantissant la sécurité de la vie, des biens, et de l'honneur du peuple. Elles prendront sans doute en considération toutes ces demi-mesures infructueuses, contre lesquelles on a si souvent protesté, et qui n'ont jamais été suffisantes pour empêcher les calamités survenues au peuple Arménien, et de le protéger des déprédations inouïes; celles-ci ayant été portées à la connaissance de Sa Majesté le Sultan, elle les a plusieurs fois admises et promit d'y porter un remède par des réformes et des améliorations.

Ainsi, Excellences, ayant considéré d'une part l'intérêt du pays, et de l'autre, nos devoirs et nos droits, nous prenons la liberté d'exposer à vos Excellences les abus et les désordres, qui tirent leurs sources du régime gouvernemental, dans la surveillance de la police et dans les tribunaux judiciaires. Les laisser passer sous silence et les voiler à jamais aurait été le cas d'abandonner le pays dans ses malheurs et dans le désastre.

1. La haute fonction de Gouverneur-Général de notre province a été le plus souvent confiée à Constantinople, sans période déterminée, à des personnes complétement incapables et sans expérience dans les connaissances des affaires locales, ou à ceux qui se sont intéressés à leur propre affaire plutôt qu'au bonheur du pays. Les fonctions ont été regardées presque toujours comme un moyen de traitement pour des personnes, et au lieu de chercher le mérite personnel en fait de la justice par principe du droit de l'égalité, on a donné la préférence, sous la pression du sentiment de l'Islamisme, seulement à tous ceux qui professent cette religion, de sorte que jusqu'à ce moment aucune fonction importante n'a jamais été confiée dans ce pays à un Arménien qui, sans doute, l'aurait méritée par sa capacité, et ce qui nous étonne le plus, c'est que les Kurdes et autres peuples semblables, nonobstant qu'ils sont toujours la calamité du pays, ont été appelés aux fonctions les plus importantes, ce qui les met à même d'être à charge au peuple soumis.

2. Quoique le Code Ottoman, publié officiellement, ait été mis en vigueur malgré ses nombreux défauts, néanmoins des ordres supérieurs et officiels arrivant de Constantinople de temps à autre en changent ou en abrégent plusieurs Articles; ce qui est plus étonnant encore, c'est le cas où un autre ordre officiel et donné dans une autre circonstance est exécuté en sens contraire des précédents; il en résulte dans les deux cas même que ce n'est plus la loi qui règne dans notre pays, mais bien l'arbitraire qui domine. Il n'existe non plus des lois déterminant les tâches des fonctionnaires pour le libre exercice d'une fonction quelconque.

3. L'organisation actuelle des Tribunaux judiciaires est aussi d'un système défectueux; par exemple, la présidence de la Cour d'Appel dans les chefs-lieux de notre province et des Tribunaux de Première Instance dans les sandjaks (départements) et les districts est confiée aux naïbs, c'est-à-dire, aux agents religieux du Chéri, qui,

dépourvus complétement des connaissances des lois civiles, et n'ayant appris la loi religieuse que par la routine, sont portés à prononcer leurs jugements tantôt en conformité des lois civiles et parfois des lois religieuses, ou le plus souvent comme bon leur semble. Ainsi, tant que les Présidents de ces Tribunaux sont des naïbs (agents du Chéri), il est absolument impossible de s'attendre à la pratique des lois civiles par ces Tribunaux.

De même, le livre des lois (nommé Medjellé), n'est que la traduction en Turc du Chéri, qui s'applique comme les lois civiles, de sorte que les Tribunaux Civils ne diffèrent guère de ceux du Chéri. Leurs Présidents sont amplement payés, tandis que les membres reçoivent le moins possible; par conséquent, l'absence de personnes capables et honnêtes, causée par ces inconvénients, laisse le champ libre aux gens sans mérite et ignorants.

4. Les lois, les ordonnances, les enquêtes, et les sentences du Gouvernement Local sont publiées seulement en langue Turque; conséquemment l'Arménien, qui ignore cette langue, n'acquiert jamais de connaissance sur ces ordres et lois, et les employés des Tribunaux les commentent et les exécutent à leur gré.

5. La police, dont les attributions sont de protéger la vie, les biens, et l'honneur du peuple, n'a jamais été capable de rendre service au pays et au Gouvernement à cause du nombre limité de son personnel, de son organisation défectueuse, et de son fonctionnement indisciplinés; c'est elle-même qui devient le plus souvent tant le déprédateur du peuple Arménien que le défenseur ou l'instigateur de ceux qui l'oppressent.

6. Le mode actuellement en pratique pour la répartition et la collection des impôts est sujet à de grands abus; les moyens employés par les collecteurs des Contributions Indirectes, comme celles des dîmes et les autres taxes perçues par le Gouvernement, sont ordinairement au détriment du peuple et au préjudice même de la Caisse du Gouvernement. Dans la répartition des impôts le degré des moyens du peuple n'est jamais pris en considération, et les arriérés accumulés depuis des années entières attestent l'état effrayant de sa misère.

Pendant la perception des impôts, dans les villes et dans les villages, les agents de la police jouent le rôle de spéculateur à tel point qu'on peut dire que le malheureux peuple leur paye forcément et gratuitement, en provision ou en argent, au moins autant que la moitié de la part en impôt, et en cas de refus ou d'opposition, le malheureux paysan inoffensif et sans protection est battu, injurié dans sa religion ou dans son honneur, et souvent emprisonné injustement, et toutes ces vexations sont commises exclusivement presque toujours au détriment du peuple Arménien et non des Kurdes ou des Turcs.

7. A peine une légère portion des revenues annuelles de notre province est destinée pour les frais d'entretien de l'instruction et des travaux publics, par exemple; on remarque dans le Salnamé (almanach) des Provinces d'Erzéroum et de Van, une somme de 109,396 piastres seulement assignée aux écoles Mussulmanes, et pour les travaux publics, 210,000 piastres. Il est donc matériellement impossible avec de telles sommes si minimes de pouvoir mettre sur le pied du progrès des provinces aussi vastes que celles d'Erzéroum et de Van.

Les revenus annuels de la Province d'Erzéroum, excepté celles de la douane, du tabac, et du sel, &c., sont de 30,000,000 à 35,000,000 piastres, et les dépenses annuelles s'élèvent à peine au quart du total. On comprend sans commentaire qu'un pays avec si peu de ressources destinées à ses frais d'entretien ne pourra jamais jouir de la sécurité publique, et surtout par suite de très-minimes appointements et encore plus des arriérés depuis quinze à vingt mois. Il est donc impossible que les personnes honnêtes et de mérite puissent accepter du service sous une pareille Administration. Par conséquent, la carrière reste libre aux gens ignorants, malhonnêtes et incapables, qui sans doute dans un but de rapacité ou de spéculation s'engagent dans la police aux conditions de recevoir 70 à 100 piastres par mois, ou comme membre d'un Conseil Judiciaire pour 200 à 400 piastres, ou gratuitement comme Mudir (Sous-Inspecteur de Police dans les villages) pour 250 piastres, et comme Caïmacam (Sous-Gouverneur de district) pour 900 piastres.

8. Dans les actes d'appropriation des terres il y a une foule d'abus; par exemple, un champ de blé labouré et récolté depuis plusieurs années par un villageois devient tout à coup la propriété d'un Bey ou d'un Agha influent du même village, sous prétexte que ce champ était "khoshnichène," c'est-à-dire une terre en friche appartenant, par je ne sais quelle prétention héréditaire, à ses aïeuls et bisaïeuls. Ainsi, moyennant une somme insignifiante ou par tout autre moyen déloyal, le Bey ou l'Agha s'empare des terres des villageois malgré les titres d'appropriation qu'ils possèdent et

l'enrégistrement dans le cadastre. Les abus ont augmenté de plus en plus par les imperfections des lois d'appropriation, et surtout par suite du nouvel ordre renvoyant devant les Tribunaux du Chéri les procès concernant les terres, contrairement au système déjà établi par un Firman spécial que les actes d'appropriation en litige devraient être procédés devant les Tribunaux civils et conformément aux lois.

9. Entamons maintenant en bref la question des iniquités commises dans notre province.

(1.) Les ignorants et les fanatiques des docteurs de l'Islamisme, au lieu de prêcher à leurs croyants l'amour, l'indulgence, et la fraternité, les excitent par leurs sermons, publiquement, dans les petites villes et villages, et clandestinement dans les grandes villes, à persécuter les Chrétiens; et les croyants de pauvre esprit, ajoutant foi à ces paroles comme émanées de Dieu même, s'animent de fanatisme, et prennent en aversion les Chrétiens, commettent des violences, insultent l'honneur, saisissent les biens et attentent à la vie des Arméniens. Et ce qui est effrayant, ils souillent les églises, ils pillent les couvents, ils mettent en torture les prêtres et les privent même de leur vie, ils déterrent les cadavres des Chrétiens, ils enlèvent des filles vierges et des femmes et les forcent à embrasser l'Islamisme, ils foulent aux pieds la Sainte Croix, ils soulèvent les vases sacrés des églises, et prennent en dérision la religion Chrétienne et tout ce qui appartient à elle. Pour en donner une idée exacte et précise, un exposé des principaux actes de ces infamies sera présentée à vos Excellences en temps et lieu opportun.

(2.) Les auteurs de ces calamités trouvent presque toujours de la protection et de l'encouragement, obtiennent même de l'honneur devant les hauts fonctionnaires, les membres des Conseils et les Notables des villes. On a vu très-souvent que ces barbares oppresseurs et tyrans de la province, arrêtés par le Gouvernement et au moment même où ils allaient être condamnés pour subir une punition, ont été mis en liberté et renvoyés dans leurs foyers, anxieux, bien entendu, de tirer vengeance du peuple Arménien et surtout de leurs accusateurs, qu'ils assassinent avec fureur sans scrupule et sans crainte. Qui serait le peuple ainsi opprimé qui aurait la hardiesse de protester contre les oppressions de pareils tyrans? Il est très-naturel, ce nous semble, que par ce procédé ces oppresseurs et tyrans de Beys et d'Aghas deviennent maître absolu de la vie, des biens, et de l'honneur du peuple Arménien, et on se porterait à croire que le Gouvernement même ne désire pas mettre un terme aux actions brutales de ces malfaiteurs.

(3.) Le système de patronage héréditaire des Kurdes et d'autres peuples nomades, système qui n'existe dans aucun autre pays même demi-civilisé, dans notre province, est considéré officiellement comme un système constitué et dominant. Les patrons de ces hordes nomades sont comme investis du droit souverain d'avoir à leur disposition des gens armés, qui sont leurs esclaves ou leurs aveugles instruments, obéissant à leurs ordres ayant trait à frapper, à piller, et même à tuer, etc. Ils ne s'occupent guère d'agriculture, d'industrie, ou de commerce; ils n'ont pas même des habitations fixes; leur seule occupation est d'errer partout les armes en mains, et sans aucun scrupule ils arrachent des mains des pauvres paysans Arméniens le pain, leur seule et dernière ressource; ils leur appartiennent les sommets des montagnes, ils se servent des plus jolies prairies et des plus fertiles vallées pour y faire paître leurs chevaux et leurs bestiaux; sans la moindre hésitation ils enlèvent des troupeaux de moutons et de bœufs; ils brûlent les amas d'herbes; ils déshonorent des femmes, etc.; et d'ailleurs ils n'ont jamais la conscience de ce qu'ils font; l'autorité du Gouvernement n'est que l'ombre nominale; il n'y a que l'ordre du Chef auquel ils attachent quelque importance.

La Sublime Porte, convaincue enfin par les protestations incessantes du peuple Arménien du pernicieux système barbare du patronage ("elaghalik") des Kurdes, donna ordre en 1869 au Gouverneur-Général d'Erzéroum (alors Ismaïl Pacha, de Trébizonde) de faire arrêter ces Chefs et de les expulser. Et en effet, environ cent Chefs seulement de Mouche ont été arrêtés et renvoyés dans la Turquie d'Europe et dans d'autres provinces, et conformément aux rapports donnés par Ismaïl Pacha, la Sublime Porte, par un Firman Impérial, ordonna aussi l'expulsion de leurs clients ("taroums") et de leurs familles. Mais immédiatement après la promulgation de ce Firman, la destitution du Gouverneur-Général Ismaïl Pacha, à la grande surprise du monde entier, a eu lieu, et non-seulement le Firman du Sultan n'a pas été exécuté, mais encore en même temps ces fameux Chefs Kurdes, qui avaient été pour jamais expulsés de notre province, furent mis en liberté et revinrent à leurs foyers exaltés, comme va sans dire, d'un courroux effrayant contre le peuple Arménien.

De même, en 1875 son Excellence Ahmet Moukhtar Pacha fit arrêter et emprisonner à Erzéroum les Chefs Kurdes de Mouche, mais immédiatement après son départ ils ont été évadés.

Cet état intolérable des Kurdes et des autres peuples semblables, éparpillés au sud et à l'est de l'Arménie, toujours armés et prêts à guerriller entre eux en ravageant les villages sans défense, a été considéré et présenté même comme un argument évident qu'en cas de besoin ces cohortes arrivent comme troupes auxiliaires aux armées Impériales, et conséquemment on devrait les laisser vivre selon leurs habitudes. Pourtant, pendant la guerre de 1854 et 1856, et surtout durant la dernière guerre en 1877 et 1878, ces Kurdes n'ont été bons que pour ravager les villages, piller les blessés et les morts, être l'instrument du plus fort, et mettre la confusion dans la discipline de nos armées Impériales. Ces faits d'ailleurs sont attestés par les Commandants et les officiers Ottomans. Nous citerons ici entre autres, plusieurs faits semblables: cette terrible action qui, durant la dernière guerre, a été commise par Cheigh Djelaleddin, qui, marchant sous prétexte de renforcer l'armée Impériale campée à Berguiri, après avoir mis au saccage et au pillage les belles campagnes et les villages sur son passage et autour du lac de Van, au lieu de se mesurer avec l'ennemi sur le champ de bataille, se sépara de notre armée et tomba sur Baïasid avec ses féroces hordes de voleurs et d'assassins, et conduit dans la ville par les indigènes Musulmans, il pilla, il saccagea et ruina les maisons des Arméniens; il tua les habitants par centaines; il enleva des filles et des femmes, etc.; ce qui est encore plus étrange, après avoir commis toutes ces atrocités, il fit sa sortie triomphale de Baïasid, et il passa impunément devant l'armée Impériale.

(4.) Il sera bon aussi de prêter une attention particulière à l'émigration des Turcs, des Kurdes, des Térékémés, et des Tcherkèses, des environs de Tchekder et de Kars, qui est une nouvelle calamité pour notre province; ces émigrés vont s'établir en ce moment dans les districts des Passins, de Kunis, d'Alacheguerde, et de Terdjan, déjà habités par des Arméniens. Le naturel barbare de ces peuplades nous est connu d'époque reculée. Ils étaient longtemps campés provisoirement sur les confins de notre province, commettant toutes espèces de crimes et de délits, et se réfugiant, en cas de poursuite, au-delà des frontières Russes et Persanes, emportant avec eux tout ce qu'ils avaient volé ou enlevé, à tel point que ces actions étaient souvent un sujet de question politique entre les Gouvernements Ottoman, Russe, et Persan. Par conséquent, leur habitation dans nos régions par l'assentiment du Gouvernement ne signifie que leur laisser le champ libre et leur donner jusqu'à un certain point l'occasion de continuer leurs ravages et leurs pillages.

(5.) Ils sont bien connu aussi les atrocités qui se font pendant le transport des troupes régulières des Bachi-Bozouks et des Tcherkeses, particulièrement dans les villages Arméniens. Les soldats et les Bachi-Bozouks après être fournis de provisions, de chevaux, de mulets, et de chariots par les villageois forcément et gratuitement, pour peu de résistance, les battent et les assomment, et pour comble de malheur, ils les torturent et les tuent même, et tous ces actes d'oppression se pratiquent souvent par la tolérance de leurs Chefs. Leur conduite dans les villes même n'en est guère différente.

(6.) A la souffrance du peuple causée par la corvée on peut ajouter l'injustice et l'exaction inouïes suivantes. Les voleurs des provisions ramassées et achetées durant la guerre des villageois à un prix excessivement bas devaient être acceptées à compte sur leurs impôts, mais maintenant, loin de reconnaître ces valeurs comme payées d'avance pour leurs contributions dues, on perçoit forcément les arriérés des pauvres sans donner aucune suite à leurs justes réclamations.

(7.) Les violences se commettent jusque dans les prisons. Les Arméniens emprisonnés pour dettes ou pour une offense légère sont pris pour la corvée, et à force de menaces, d'outrages, de blasphèmes et de coups sont contraints de payer de grandes sommes pour se soustraire aux actes arbitraires et barbares.

Or, considérant que le Gouvernement Impérial trouve son intérêt dans la prospérité du pays, dans la sûreté de la vie, des propriétés, et de l'honneur publiques, et accepte, sans distinction de religion et de race, le principe du droit de l'égalité, proclamé tant de fois avec des Firmans, comme condition essentielle et indispensable pour la régénération du pays, et convaincus que Sa Majesté le Sultan étant sans doute inspiré, par ses bonnes et justes intentions, a envoyé vos Excellences en Arménie afin que, conformément aux dispositions du LXIme Article du Traité de Berlin, elles puissent réaliser et exécuter sans perte de temps les améliorations et les réformes qu'exigent les besoins de notre province, nous, les Arméniens, habitants indigènes de la province d'Erzéroum, par le seul droit sacré dont nous avons toujours été les sujets les plus fidèles et les plus paisibles de Sa Majesté le Sultan, et surtout le peuple ayant le plus souffert parmi les

différentes classes soumis à son autorité, prenons la liberté avec un profond respect et une grande satisfaction de présenter à vos Excellences le projet précis d'améliorations et de réformes pour notre province.

Projet d'Améliorations et de Réformes Locales de la Province d'Erzéroum.

La province d'Erzéroum par sa subdivision actuelle, outre le sandjak central (le principal chef-lieu, où réside le Gouverneur-Général) a trois autres sandjaks, lesquels sont: Erzinguian, Baïazid et Baïbourt. Les cazas (districts) des Passins, de Khenous, de Keghi, et de Terdjan, sont sous la dépendance du chef-lieu central; les districts de Kemagh, de Kouroutchaï, de Kouzoutchan, d'Ovadjik, et de Mazguerd, sous celle du chef-lieu d'Erzinguian; et ceux de Diadin, de Karakilisse, d'Alacheguerd et d'Aïntap, sont sous le Sandjak de Baïazid; sous la dépendance de celui de Baïbourt, les cazas d'Isbir, de Giusguim, de Kelkitet, de Cheïran. Par conséquent, il y a dans notre province, excepté le Vali (le Gouverneur-Général) trois Mutessarifs (Gouverneurs), dix-sept Caïmacams (Sous-Gouverneurs) y compris les quelques Mudirs (Inspecteurs de Police dans les villages.)

Gouvernement.

1. La nomination et la destitution de Gouverneur-Général de notre province sont déjà du droit sacré de notre Souverain le Sultan; cependant, il est d'une vérité incontestable que le Gouvernement et le peuple ne se sympathisent mutuellement que lorsque le peuple est convaincu de la bonne administration du Gouverneur-Général. On sait bien que Sa Majesté Impériale, ayant eu pitié de l'état malheureux où se trouve le peuple Arménien de l'Arménie, a eu l'heureuse intention de l'améliorer et de le rassurer. Or, considérant que le Patriarche des Arméniens résidant à Constantinople est le représentant de tous les Arméniens de la Turquie, et l'intermédiaire entre eux et le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, conformément à la disposition du règlement national, sanctionné déjà par Sa Majesté le Sultan, et que la voix de sa Sainteté le Patriarche est celle de tout le peuple Arménien de l'Empire Ottoman, il sera bon et utile que la Sublime Porte prend au préalable son avis et l'opinion en cas de nomination et de destitution du Gouverneur-Général de notre province. Et puisque jusqu'aujourd'hui les Valis, les Mutessarifs et Caïmacams n'ont guère pris soin du bien-être et de la prospérité du pays, et n'ont pu jamais contenter le peuple Arménien, et comme il est démontré par l'expérience que désormais il est absolument impossible que, par les mêmes moyens ou principes déjà en pratique on puisse arriver à un résultat satisfaisant en fait d'amélioration et de réforme dans notre province, conformément à la haute et à la vraie principe de l'égalité, acceptée maintenant, dans le monde entier, nous proposons que le Gouverneur-Général de notre province et les Gouverneurs de Erzinguian, de Baïazid, des Passins, de Khénous, de Keghi, de Terdjan, de Guisguim, de Kemagh, de Mazguerd, de Karakilissé, et d'Alacheguerd, aussi bien que ceux des provinces ou des districts peuplés et habités principalement par des Arméniens, soient Arméniens, à condition que la durée du fonctionnement du Gouverneur-Général soit déterminé pour un temps fixe.

2. Que les Gouverneurs des sandjaks de la province soient nommés et destitués exactement de la même manière que le Gouverneur-Général et les Sous-Gouverneurs des districts, par la décision du Conseil Administratif de la province, et par la confirmation du Gouverneur-Général. En cas qu'un Gouverneur d'un sandjak aura une observation à faire sur la nomination ou la destitution d'un Sous-Gouverneur de sa dépendance il est de son devoir, de concert avec le Conseil Administratif du sandjak, de présenter un rapport motivé au Chef de la province, qui en prendra les mesures nécessaires après un examen légal.

3. Pour la nomination et la destitution des fonctionnaires principaux du chef-lieu de la province, tels que: le Chef de la Comptabilité, celui des Correspondances, l'Inspecteur des Registres des cadastres, celui des biens dédiés et d'autres, qui sont nommés et destitués directement de la Sublime Porte, il serait bon qu'au préalable elle en ait recours à l'avis du Gouverneur-Général et qu'elle en agit en conséquence; ces fonctionnaires seront aussi assistés par des Assesseurs, et si le fonctionnaire principal est Arménien, son Assesseur doit être Ture-Islam, et ainsi réciproquement.

4. Les fonctionnaires de la seconde catégorie des sandjaks, tels que le Comptable, le Secrétaire, &c., soient nommés et destitués par la décision du Conseil Administratif

de la province, et confirmés dans leurs fonctions par le Gouverneur-Général, mais le Conseil Administratif soit obligé de consulter le principal fonctionnaire de la même section, en cas de nommer ou de destituer ces fonctionnaires; quant aux employés de troisième catégorie des districts, tels que les Chefs des Comptes, &c., soient choisis et employés au service de concert avec le Gouverneur et son Conseil Administratif, mais un rapport motivé à l'égard de leurs placements et de leurs déplacements soit présenté au Gouverneur-Général, qui, après l'avoir examiné avec son Conseil, le confirme ou l'annule d'après la décision faite.

5. Pour protéger l'agriculture, pour encourager l'industrie, et surveiller à l'instruction publique de notre province, il est d'une urgence notoire de former un office d'un large fonctionnement, dont le Chef doit être nommé exactement avec la même manière que le Gouverneur-Général, et les employés de son ressort seront d'un nombre égal de Tures-Islams et d'Arméniens, lesquels doivent être choisis par le Conseil Administratif sur la proposition du Chef et confirmés dans leurs emplois par le Gouverneur-Général.

6. Le Conseil Administratif de la province doit être formé de six membres, moitié Arméniens et moitié Tures-Islams. Le Naïb, le Mufti, les Prélats, le Defterdar, le Mekloubdji, le Directeur des Vakoufs (des biens dédiés), &c., ne pourront pas y assister comme membres de droit. Déjà un Naïb n'étant qu'un agent de loi sacrée, son concours n'est pas de rigueur dans ce Conseil; quant aux autres fonctionnaires, ils peuvent y assister dans le cas où le Conseil aura besoin de les consulter sur une question ou sur un sujet de leurs attributions.

7. Chaque sandjak (département) aura un Conseil Administratif tout-à-fait conforme à celui de la province.

8. Chaque caza (district) aura son Conseil formé de quatre membres dont les deux seront Tures-Islams et les deux Arméniens.

9. Les membres des Conseils de la province, des sandjaks, et des districts seront changés par moitié à chaque deux ans, et ils seront rééligibles.

10. La province aura une Assemblée Générale élue directement par le peuple et formée d'un certain nombre de représentants, dont la moitié sera Tures-Islams et la moitié Arméniens; les Chefs religieux des différentes communautés, le Mufti, les Prélats seront membres de droit dans cette Assemblée, dont l'attribution sera d'examiner et vérifier le budget de la province, la gestion et le mode de la répartition des contributions et des dépenses, et demander compte des actes administratifs de tous les Conseils de la province.

Les Tribunaux.

11. Le chef-lieu de la province aura une Cour d'Appel, dont le Président, sauf un Naïb, sera nommé directement de la Sublime Porte à l'instar de la nomination du Gouverneur-Général et responsable au Ministère de la Justice; le Tribunal aura six membres, moitié Tures-Islams et moitié Arméniens.

12. Le chef-lieu de la province aura aussi un Tribunal de Première Instance, dont le Président sera nommé par le Gouverneur-Général, et les membres en seront de nombre six, moitié Tures-Islams et moitié Arméniens, et si le Président de la Cour d'Appel est un Islam, celui-ci doit être Arménien.

13. Les sandjaks aussi doivent avoir des Tribunaux de Première Instance, qui seront formés conformément à la disposition de l'Article 12; les Présidents en seront nommés du Gouverneur-Général, et si le Gouverneur de Sandjak est Arménien, celui-ci doit être Ture-Islam, et réciproquement.

14. Les Cours d'Appel et les Tribunaux de Première Instance auront chacun des Procureurs-Généraux, qui, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, seront nommés de la Sublime Porte; leurs attributions seront de protéger les gens qui ignorent les lois et qui ne savent pas plaider leurs causes.

15. Tous les districts doivent avoir un Tribunal de Première Instance formé de quatre membres, moitié Ture-Islams, et moitié Arméniens; leurs Présidents qui ne seront pas des Naïbs seront nommés directement de la Cour d'Appel de la province; si le Caïmacam du même district est Arménien, celui-ci doit être Ture-Islam, et réciproquement.

16. Le chef-lieu de la province aura un Tribunal de Commerce, dont le Président sera nommé de la Sublime Porte, par l'assentiment du Gouverneur-Général; il aura quatre membres, moitié Tures-Islams, et la moitié Arméniens, lesquels seront proposés par le Conseil Administratif de la province par scrutin secret des personnes éligibles, dont la liste en nombre triplé sera préparée par un Comité préalablement formé par un

Conseil d'une quinzaine ou d'une vingtaine d'honorables négociants de la ville. Le système de payer les appointements du Président et ceux des membres selon la quantité des revenus du Tribunal doit être aboli, afin que le personnel du Tribunal ne soit pas à la recherche des procès comme à présent.

17. Les sandjaks aussi doivent avoir des Tribunaux de Commerce formés exactement à l'instar de celui du chef-lieu de la province, dont les Présidents seront nommés par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil Administratif et du Tribunal de Commerce de la province.

18. Dans les cazas où se trouvent des négociants d'un nombre suffisant il doit y avoir de même un Tribunal de Commerce dont les membres seront nommés conformément à la disposition de l'Article 16, et le Président conformément à celui de l'Article 17.

19. Les membres de tous les Tribunaux judiciaires et commerciaux seront changés à chaque deux ans, ayant le droit d'être rééligibles.

20. Les premiers Juges d'Instruction de la Cour d'Appel et des Tribunaux de Première Instance du chef-lieu et de celui des sandjaks, seront nommés par le Ministère de la Justice, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, des Turcs-Islams, et des Arméniens sans distinction de religion; si les premiers sont des Turcs-Islams, les seconds doivent être Arméniens, et ainsi réciproquement.

21. Le Ministère de la Justice doit nommer des Inspecteurs spéciaux, sans l'autorité du Gouverneur-Général, qui feront tour dans la province, et en inspectant tous les Tribunaux, ils donneront un rapport de l'état de la justice au Gouverneur-Général.

La Police.

22. Il est d'une urgence incontestable de former aussitôt que possible une gendarmerie fortement organisée sur le modèle de celle des Européens, dont le nombre soit exactement autant que la sécurité de notre province exige, moitié de Turcs-Islams et moitié d'Arméniens, recrutés des habitants honnêtes et capables de la province avec un appointement raisonnable. Les Kurdes, les Tcherkeses, et d'autres peuplades barbares seront exclus de ce corps, de même les zaptiehs et les officiers qui sont en service actuellement; parce qu'ils n'auront aucune aptitude pour le système nouveau, ayant été habitués depuis longtemps aux abus et aux désordres.

23. Le Colonel et le major du corps de la gendarmerie doivent être des Européens, au moins pour à présent, parce que le pays n'est pas encore en état de fournir des hommes capables pour ce service; quant aux autres officiers, comme les capitaines et les sous-lieutenants, seront choisis parmi les peuples Turcs-Islams et Arméniens; ce corps doit être d'un nombre égal d'Arméniens et de Turcs-Islams.

Les Impôts.

24. Quel que soit le genre de l'impôt imposé sur chaque sujet, il faut qu'il soit déterminé en proportion de ses moyens ou de sa position, en ayant pour base la justice et l'égalité.

25. Il ne faut jamais imposer arbitrairement un nouvel impôt quelconque, et ceux qui sont déjà établis doivent être réduits, autant qu'il est possible, en leurs nombres et leurs quantités.

26. Le système actuel des dîmes est un de ceux qui font le plus grand préjudice au peuple cultivateur de la province, à cause de ses mille espèces de vexations que les contracteurs et les collecteurs des dîmes commettent sur eux; il est absolument nécessaire de faire la répartition des impôts d'après le mode suivant: prendre ensemble les sommes des dîmes allouées des quatre ou des cinq années dernières, diviser le résultat par quatre ou par cinq et en déduire un quotient moyen et tolérable pour le peuple, le répartir sur chaque demoum (mesure de champ de blé d'un kilomètre carré) et les percevoir avec les impôts des biens immeubles chaque année à son temps fixe.

27. Abolir à jamais le mode actuel de la perception des impôts par l'entremise des zaptiehs, qui est très-préjudiciable également au pays et au Trésor Impérial; il faut avoir pour ce service des Percepteurs spéciaux, fidèles et loyaux, sous garantie et avec un salaire raisonnable.

Dispositions Diverses.

28. Il faut que la langue Arménienne également avec la langue Turque soit admise officiellement dans notre province et employée dans tous les Tribunaux, dans tous les codes, dans tous les bureaux, et surtout dans les écrits et actes verbaux concernant les Arméniens.

29. Les employés en service dans les bureaux du Gouvernement de notre province doivent être moitié Turcs-Islams et moitié Arméniens.

30. Chacune des nations dans notre province doit élire elle même, de manière que semble bonne à elle, d'entre les hommes de mérite de ses nationaux, les Membres de l'Assemblée Générale, des Conseils Administratifs, et des Tribunaux Judiciaires, parce qu'il est naturel que chaque nation connaît bien ses hommes de mérite.

31. Les fonctionnaires ou les employés, quels que soient leurs services, ne devront pas être destitués, à moins que leurs infractions soient incontestablement prouvées, de même ceux des fonctionnaires et des employés qui s'acquittent consciencieusement de leurs devoirs, devront être récompensés sans distinction de race et de religion, et les infracteurs et surtout les coupables d'abus parmi les hauts fonctionnaires où les préposés, doivent subir les peines dictées par les lois pénitentiaires.

32. Par un règlement spécial doivent être déterminées les attributions de tous les fonctionnaires depuis le Gouverneur-Général jusqu'aux simples employés subalternes, ainsi que le fonctionnement des Conseils, leur responsabilité, leur juridiction dont ils sont chargés, afin qu'ils agissent en conséquence.

33. Il est de la première importance de prendre en considération la circonspection ou la délimitation de notre province et d'en tracer une carte détaillée; la subdivision actuelle est très-défectueuse et irrégulière; par exemple, les cazas d'Ispir, de Giusguim et de Tartoum étaient des districts séparés et qu'il fallait les laisser dans leur situation normale, on en a fait un seul district. De même on peut former de la vaste campagne d'Erzéroum deux districts importants, et ainsi de suite; donc les subdivisions actuelles de notre province devront être aussi modifiées et améliorées en augmentant le nombre des districts, autant qu'on croira bon.

34. Les Tribunaux n'ont pas des lois parfaites et propres à leur juridiction, ni même une procédure complète, et celles qui sont déjà en cours sont très-défectueuses. Le Megellé étant la traduction exacte en langue Turque de la loi sacrée (du Chéri) ne peut suppléer les lois civiles dans les Tribunaux; il faut absolument préparer de nouveau des lois civiles foncières, &c., exactement semblables à celles adoptées du monde civilisé et basées sur des principes libéraux pour la sécurité de la justice publique.

35. Les procès judiciaires, criminels, commerciaux et héréditaires, et ceux des biens mobiliers et immobiliers et concernant les Chrétiens, qui peuvent avoir lieu seulement entre Chrétiens, ou entre Chrétiens et Musulmans, ne devront pas être portés devant les Tribunaux du Chéri, si même les parties en litige l'auraient voulu, mais ils doivent être procédés devant ces Tribunaux Civils auxquels ils se rapportent. L'Arménien arrangera aussi ses affaires concernant les répartitions de biens héréditaires dans le Conseil National, sans l'interposition des Tribunaux du Chéri.

36. Il faut sans doute que les fonctionnaires supérieurs aussi bien que les inférieurs, et les membres des Conseils de notre province, soient payés ponctuellement à la fin de chaque mois, et la coutume pernicieuse d'avoir au service des employés gratuits ou d'un appointement insignifiant doit être abolie pour jamais.

37. Après avoir déduit des revenus annuels de la province les appointements des fonctionnaires, les frais des bureaux et des offices, les dépenses des travaux et des instructions publiques et celles qui seront nécessitées pour la prospérité du pays, le surplus sera envoyé au Trésor Impérial; autrement, il est matériellement impossible que pour le système d'à présent, c'est-à-dire par la quatrième partie des revenus annuels de la province, on puisse faire la moindre amélioration quelconque.

38. Puisqu'il est notoire que des personnes puissantes ont réussi par des moyens illégaux de s'approprier en plusieurs endroits de la province des champs de blé des villageois, qui les avaient cultivés et fait des récoltes depuis plusieurs années, il faut bientôt examiner ces injustices commises, et former un Comité Mixte d'Arméniens et de Turcs-Islams pour la révision des titres d'appropriations et pour l'inexécution de la justice.

39. Par une surveillance sévère empêcher que les hodjas Musulmans (le clergé) ignorants et fanatiques n'inspirent pas au peuple Islam de l'aversion et de la haine contre les Arméniens ou les Chrétiens; au contraire qu'ils les exhortent à considérer la religion comme un moyen du salut de l'âme, et qu'ils prêchent la fraternité et l'égalité avec les Chrétiens.

40. Que ne soit jamais accepté comme formel devant un Tribunal quelconque la confession religieuse d'un jeune homme, d'une jeune fille, et d'une femme n'ayant encore dévolu l'âge de 21 ans, et il faut punir sévèrement ceux qui, par force, enlèvent des jeunes filles ou des garçons à leurs familles ou des jeunes femmes à leurs maris.

41. Il faut que l'autorité désarme les Kurdes et les Tchèrkeses et tous les gens qui sans aucun ordre exprès du Gouvernement portent les armes publiquement et librement dans les villes et dans les villages, et en cas de non exécution de cette mesure, permettre aussi aux Arméniens d'en porter pour la défense de leur vie, de leurs biens, et de leur honneur.

42. Il est indispensable de disperser enfin ces corps de patronages des Kurdes, de les faire caser séparément comme les Arméniens, dans des endroits convenables et facile accès à l'autorité, et de les obliger à cultiver la terre pour gagner leur vie.

43. Que les autorités n'espèrent et n'exigent des opprimés et des offensés Arméniens qu'ils portassent plaintes et protestations contre leurs oppresseurs et leurs offenseurs, en général, personne n'aura le courage de le faire, par la raison que chaque fois qu'ils ont protesté contre ces opprimeurs, on n'a donné aucune importance à leurs protestations, de sorte que l'oppresseur ou celui qui avait donné le sujet des plaintes, n'a jamais été puni, grâce à la protection des personnes notables ou influentes qui se trouvent auprès de l'autorité ou dans les chefs-lieux de la province, et ainsi, ces malfaiteurs laissés libres, ont réussi toujours de se venger de leurs plaignants; par conséquent il faut que le Gouvernement Impérial dépaysent tous ces corps des patronages Kurdes et surtout tous ces soi-disant Boys et Aghas, qui sont des petits despotes dans leurs villages avec leurs familles et leurs parents dans l'intérieur de l'Arabie.

44. Que les protecteurs officiels et non-officiels de ces malfaiteurs qui habitent dans les villes soient envoyés au dehors de notre province dans les pays lointains, et qu'on ne les laisse jamais y retourner.

45. Les Kurdes, les Tchèrkeses, les Térékémés, et les autres peuplades, comme eux, qui émigrent de Kars et de Schelder, ne doivent pas habiter dans les districts et les villages déjà occupés par des Arméniens, mais il faut les placer dans les pays lointains.

46. Mettre enfin un terme à toutes ces atrocités et ces violences, que les troupes régulières, les zaptiés, et les Bachi-Bozouks commettent chaque jour dans les villages et dans les villes, et défendre aux soldats de loger dans les maisons de villages et des villes, tant qu'il y a des casernes et des khans, et s'ils n'en existent pas, il faut en construire de nouveaux et empêcher sévèrement qu'ils ne se permettent et ne s'arrogent le droit de prendre par force aucune chose pour eux et pour leurs chevaux, et que toutes leurs provisions soient pourvues par l'autorité locale.

Conclusion.

Nous n'avons pas à douter que le Gouvernement Impérial ne se soit pas décidé fermement d'entreprendre l'amélioration du sort malheureux du peuple Arménien qui habite dans notre province, dont les droits nationaux ont été foulés aux pieds depuis plusieurs années, et qui a souffert incessamment des tourments et des violences inouïes, et que, si cet état de choses continue encore désormais ce sera de donner la sentence de la mort d'une nation étant déjà aux angoisses morales et physiques, qui souhaite de tout son cœur de vivre en tranquillité et en repos sous la haute protection de l'Empire Ottoman, environné par des nations qui ont fait tant de progrès dans la carrière de la civilisation et de la prospérité.

La prospérité et la décadence d'un Empire dépendent principalement de l'état de son peuple; et quand leur régénération est encore possible et facile à se réaliser, il n'est pas permis de s'en désespérer.

Nous avons la ferme conviction que la force et la grandeur de notre Empire ne peut se raffermir et se consolider d'aucune autre manière que par les améliorations et les réformes qui doivent remplacer les régimes déjà vieillis, qui dominent actuellement dans notre province.

C'est pourquoi nous avons pris la liberté de présenter à vos Excellences ce Projet de Réformes, consistant de quarante-six Articles, et précédé d'un Préface, en vous suppliant humblement de le prendre en considération, et de le remettre à Sa Gracieuse Majesté Impériale le Sultan de l'Empire Ottoman.

Erzéroum, le $^{6}_{18}$ $^{\text{Juin}}_{\text{Juillet}}$ 1879.

No. 427.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 26.*)

(No. 738. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 18, 1879.*

THE Porte has recalled General Vitalis from the command of the militia and gendarmerie in Eastern Roumelia. It has named in his place Strecker Pasha, a German, who has been for many years in its service. He has the reputation of being an energetic and capable officer, and has been, at various times, employed in important and responsible commands. He has rendered services to the British Government, from whom he received, in acknowledgment, a gold watch.

Vitalis Pasha had been, as your Lordship is aware, almost imposed upon the Turkish Government by the French Ambassador. He showed himself, from the very first, completely incompetent to the performance of his duties, and displayed a want of tact and administrative ability which threatened to throw everything with which he was concerned into confusion. All the members of the European Commission were unanimous in wishing for his removal, even the Baron de Ring admitting his complete incapacity. Of late he had, however, shown energy on one or two occasions, and a determination to carry out the Treaty of Berlin. As, on this account, the Bulgarians, especially the officers of the militia and of the gendarmerie, acting, it is asserted, at the instigation of Russian and Panslavist Agents, were intriguing against him, with a view of having him removed and replaced by a Bulgarian or Russian officer, it was thought by some of the Commissioners that it would be desirable, in order to frustrate these intrigues, to retain him for the present in his command. Acting, therefore, upon the advice of Mr. Consul-General Michell, I joined my French colleague in advising Caratheodory Pasha not to recall General Vitalis until the change could be made without giving an ostensible triumph to the Russo-Bulgarian parties, which might lead to serious consequences. His Excellency expressed his concurrence in our views, and we understood that General Vitalis was to be retained until a suitable opportunity presented itself for his removal. I do not remember, however, that his Excellency gave us any distinct pledge to that effect.

General Vitalis has recently quarrelled with Aleko Pasha, and they are not, I understand, on even speaking terms. The Governor-General has demanded his recall, and has suggested Strecker Pasha as his successor.

M. Fournier has felt himself personally aggrieved by the removal of General Vitalis, and has addressed a note on the subject to the Porte, which he allowed me to see before sending it in, and of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, obtained confidentially. My colleague wished me to join him in this representation, but I declined to do more than to inform Safvet Pasha that we had come to a kind of understanding with Caratheodory Pasha, that General Vitalis should be left in his command for the present, and to warn his Highness that it was impolitic and unwise to allow the General to be the victim of the intrigues of those who wished to have him sent away because he was acting in the interests of the Porte, and with a loyal desire to execute the Treaty of Berlin; this I have done.

Your Lordship will perceive that M. Fournier, in his note, first treats the removal of General Vitalis as a personal question, and then demands officially that this officer should have the rank of a General of Brigade in the Turkish army, which my colleague assumes was his position in Eastern Roumelia, and that he should be treated and paid like Baker Pasha. Should the Porte decline to accede to this demand, then M. Fournier will insist upon a full pecuniary indemnity being paid to General Vitalis. It is not likely that the Porte will accede, unless under extreme pressure, to these pretensions, which cannot but be considered as somewhat extravagant. I have obtained a copy of the Firman given to General Vitalis (translation inclosed), which confers upon him the rank of Brigadier-General of the Militia, and the title of "Bey." Consequently, those of General and Pasha, which he has enjoyed in Eastern Roumelia, and which M. Fournier gives to him in his note, appear to have been simply local.

It is much to be regretted that this incident should have occurred at the present time. It cannot but further indispose the Porte to the employment of Europeans. As it has happened before, an incapable officer has been almost forced upon it by a foreign Embassy. When his incapacity has been proved, and he can no longer be employed, the Turkish Government finds itself saddled with him, and is threatened with a claim for a heavy indemnity if it ventures to remove him from its service.

It is very desirable, on every account, that Europeans, when recommended by foreign Embassies or Governments to the Porte for special services, should at least have

some experience of the duties which they are intended to perform, and have sufficient capacity to discharge them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—Since writing this despatch I have seen Safvet Pasha, who tells me that, in order to pacify M. Fournier, and prevent a misunderstanding with France, he presumes that the Porte will have to provide for General Vitalis in the gendarmerie.

Inclosure 1 in No. 427.

M. Fournier to Safvet Pasha.

Thérapia, le 15 *Août*, 1879.

M. DE LONGEVILLE m'a apporté hier soir, tenant le fait de la bouche même de votre Excellence, la confirmation de la nouvelle qui circulait depuis quarante-huit heures du rappel du Général Vitalis, et de son remplacement comme Commandant des forces militaires de la Roumélie Orientale par le Général Streeker.

Votre Altesse n'ignore pas qu'informé de la demande adressée à ce sujet à la Sublime Porte par Aleko Pacha, j'avais cru devoir entretenir de cette affaire son prédécesseur, et que j'avais obtenu du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères la promesse qu'aucune décision ne serait prise que d'accord avec l'Ambassade de France. J'avais eu depuis l'honneur d'entretenir également de cette affaire avec son Altesse Aarif Pacha, qui avait bien voulu prendre vis-à-vis de moi des engagements analogues.

Votre Altesse comprendra donc quelle pénible surprise j'ai dû éprouver en apprenant une décision si brusque, si contraire aux égards dus au Représentant d'une Puissance amie, et qui vient frapper sans enquête sérieuse préalable un ancien officier Français dont personne n'a jamais contesté ni la bravoure ni la parfaite honorabilité.

Il ne me convient pas d'insister sur le fait qu'il eût été plus courtois, de la part de la Sublime Porte, si elle était décidée à sacrifier M. le Général Vitalis à des influences que j'ignore, de prendre la peine d'en informer directement l'Ambassadeur de France, qui n'avait pas été étranger à sa nomination, et de lui éviter d'apprendre d'abord cette nouvelle par le bruit public. Ce sont là des griefs presque personnels sur lesquels je ne veux pas m'arrêter; mais je tiens à dire de suite à votre Altesse comment j'envisage cette question, certain que je suis d'être en cette affaire l'interprète des sentiments de mon Gouvernement.

M. Vitalis, par le Firman qui lui a été octroyé en Mai dernier par Sa Majesté le Sultan, est devenu Officier-Général Ottoman. Il relève directement à ce titre du Gouvernement Ottoman, et je n'entends pas dénier à celui-ci aussi longtemps que Vitalis Pacha n'était pas lié au service de la Province de Roumélie Orientale par le contrat personnel prévu au Statut, le droit de changer selon ses convenances la fonction dont il était investi.

Mais, et c'est pour ce motif que j'ai employé intentionnellement le mot "rappel" au lieu du mot "révocation," qui a été prononcé, la fonction et le grade sont deux choses parfaitement distinctes, et je me plais à penser que le Gouvernement Impérial ne se refuse pas à l'entendre ainsi. Le grade ne se perd que pour infirmités ou indignité. Or, M. Vitalis n'est pas infirme, et je ne sache pas que personne ose l'accuser d'indignité. Vitalis Pacha reste donc aujourd'hui ce qu'il était hier, Général de Brigade des armées Ottomanes, et je me sens d'autant plus fondé à insister sur son droit que la fidélité avec laquelle il s'est toujours tenu à la lettre du Traité de Berlin et du Statut Organique, c'est-à-dire sa fidélité au Souverain qui l'a librement nommé, a surtout contribué à créer l'impopularité dont on se fait aujourd'hui une arme contre lui. J'ai l'honneur, en conséquence, de prier votre Altesse de vouloir bien adresser officiellement, et aussi promptement que possible, la confirmation des assurances verbales qu'elle a bien voulu me faire parvenir au sujet du classement immédiat de M. Vitalis parmi les officiers étrangers employés au service de la nouvelle gendarmerie. Je la prie en outre de vouloir bien faire savoir au Conseil des Ministres qu'il serait juste d'attribuer au Général Vitalis une solde fixe en or, proportionnée à son grade et payée comme celle de son collaborateur Anglais et de M. le Général Baker, par la Banque Ottomane. J'ose espérer que votre Altesse voudra bien apprécier la valeur des considérations que j'ai eu l'honneur de lui soumettre, et faire à ma double demande une réponse favorable.

(Signé) FOURNIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 427.

Firman given to General Vitalis.

(Traduction.)

J'AI jugé convenable de conférer le grade de Général de Brigade de la Milice à Vitalis Bey, qui a été nommé Chef de la Gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale, et j'ai donné à cet égard un Iradé Impérial. Selon l'usage, le Firman contenant sa nomination au grade précité est délivré par mon Divan Houmayoun. Le susdit Général de Brigade devra, dorénavant, conformément aux exigences de ses fonctions et à son intelligence, faire tous ses efforts pour donner des preuves d'intelligence et de droiture dans toutes les circonstances de ces fonctions, et veiller avec soin à ce qu'il ne se produise aucun fait contraire à la loi et à mon contentement Impérial.

No. 428.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 741.)
Thérapia, August 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a further despatch from Lieutenant Chermside relative to the proceedings of the local Assembly at Aleppo and of the Reforms Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 428.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, August 6, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following for your Excellency's information:—

The proceedings of the local Assembly for the past three weeks have been far more satisfactory than they were previously. However great cause there may be to regret the inability of the Commissioners to arrive at any practical results, and the necessity imposed upon them of limiting their work to reforms on paper, there is no reason why the local Assembly, whose object was avowedly to formulate for approval local wants and proposed alterations in the various branches of the Administration, should not perform their work conscientiously, however small may be their hopes of seeing the measures they recommend actually executed. I have not failed to impress my views on this subject not only on the Commission, but also on a considerable number of the most influential members of the Assembly, pointing out that it would be impossible for Her Majesty's Government to support, if they met with its approval, their demands and propositions unless the latter had been formulated.

Most of the more important points have been already discussed. I have, owing to my journey to Alexandretta, no time to treat of these in detail by this post, but I will forward a despatch on the subject at the earliest opportunity.

It is rumoured that the Assembly will be dismissed in time for the members to reach their homes before Ramazan. If this prove to be the case, some of the members with whom I have been in communication will present a paper enumerating such further points as they wish to discuss, so that, even if no discussion takes place, there will be official record that such were among the questions it was wished to bring forward.

Ali Pasha has not been summoned from Devi. After a vast amount of discussion Mazhar Pasha has, I believe, given way in this matter to the wishes of the Vali and the other Commissioners.

The real number of the Zeitouners condemned to death is but eleven, as the Commission anticipated.

I have reported this in No. 16.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. CHERMSIDE.

No. 429.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 743.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Bourgas, Rustchuk, Trebizond, and Adrianople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 429.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, August* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 8th instant all the members of the Corps Consulaire residing here called upon the Prefect of this Department, M. J. Petroff, in order to call his attention to the frequent complaints made by the inhabitants of Bourgas against the militiamen now quartered in this town.

The Prefect, to whom we reported various instances of the unnecessary and brutal use of the butt-end of their rifles, of theft and attempts at theft, and of the employment towards peaceable townspeople of threatening language and gestures by these troops, promised to report the complaint to the officer in command, and to urge upon him the necessity of enforcing a stricter discipline.

During our visit information was brought that the shop of a Persian subject had just been entered by soldiers of the militia, and tobacco and melons carried off. Two hours later, and in broad daylight, the Civil Engineer of the town (an Armenian), whilst looking at a piece of road which is being made under his direction, received three blows from the butt-end of the rifle carried by a sentinel placed on the road in question.

Captain Sdanoff, the Russian officer commanding the four companies of militia now quartered here, has, since these occurrences, issued an order of the day warning his men not to overstep the bounds of their duty, and to give no further just cause of complaint to the townspeople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 429.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, August* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 26th July the Lieutenant of Police of Aïdos, a private of the same corps (both Bulgarians), and a Turkish employé, named Rassim, were murdered by Turks near the village of Tchengué, in the canton of Aïdos.

As, from the evidence of the only survivor of the party, suspicion pointed to the Turks of Gherlova, in the district of Shumla, a party of militia was sent in that direction; at the same time a certain Lieutenant ——, who was then at Aïdos, and charged by General Vitalis with the enlistment of men for the Gendarmerie Corps, received orders to take command of thirty armed Bulgarians from Aïdos and the villages. These men were euphemistically described by the Aïdos authorities as "gendarmes in plain clothes," and were also sent to find out and arrest the murderers.

In every Turkish village through which they passed these Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks beat men and women, often without even the semblance of a pretext, and stole, or rather seized upon, horses, money, clothing, household utensils, and everything that took their fancy.

At Mourna Tchiftlik, a village two or three hours from Pravadi, they beat several men, "accablaient de coups de bâton et de plat de sabre," an old woman of eighty-three, and violated another woman.

Lieutenant ——, the nominal Commander of this force, has said to me:—"Though I have fought against the Turks three years in Crete, the tears came into my eyes when I witnessed the acts of cruelty committed by the Bulgarians upon a most hospitable and unoffending population. As to any serious attempt at restraining the men, it was impossible. You are a Greek, and, of course, you side with the Turks," was the answer I received.

Lieutenant —— was so shocked by what he had seen that he threw up his command, came to Bourgas, reported the excesses I have briefly touched upon, and asked for his release from the service, or employment on some duty more congenial to the feelings of an officer belonging to a regular corps.

The Prefect of Bourgas, on receiving his Report, took such measures as were in his power; and, if similar excesses are again committed, it will not be the fault of M. Petroff, but rather that the men at his disposal are either insufficient in number, or else untrustworthy.

I would submit to your Excellency that, as long as the Turkish Government is prevented from employing Bashi-Bazouks even in the event of war, the Government of Eastern Roumelia has not the right to employ Bashi-Bazouks even to arrest murderers.

Bashi-Bazouk, of course, means, literally, "wrong-headed"; but it has, in this province at least, a secondary meaning, as "out of place," therefore "beyond control." The servant who has been dismissed, or has left his master, speaks of himself (until he has found another situation) as Bashi-Bazouk.

Your Excellency will no doubt agree with me that this term, very objectionable to, and always rejected by, Bulgarians, is quite as applicable to bands of Christians, armed, undisciplined, ferocious, and un-uniformed, as it is to levies of Mussulmans without uniform, fanatical, armed, and uncontrollable.

The question of the employment by the authorities of Eastern Roumelia of such very questionable "irregular troops" appears to me as likely to affect materially the tranquillity of this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 429.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, August* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, on the 8th instant, a band of thirty-five Bulgarian (or Greek) peasants, armed with Martini, Winchester, and Krinka rifles, appeared at the Turkish village of Arnaoutkeui, on the borders of Cazas of Aïdos and Aehialo, and drove off twenty-four head of cattle.

These cattle were driven through the pastures of the village of Kizildjik, in the Caza of Aïdos, from which the inhabitants (Turks) sallied out, pursued and caught up the robbers, exchanged a number of rifle-shots with them, finally putting the Bulgarians to flight and rescuing the whole of the cattle. During the skirmish, a young Turk of Kizildjik was wounded by a rifle-ball in the fore-arm; I am unable what, if any, were the losses on the Bulgarians' side.

In the meantime, another band of armed Bulgarians had carried off fourteen head of cattle from the Turkish village of Kiupekli, but these robbers were also unfortunate enough to fall in with the men of Kizildjik; many shots were again exchanged, but again the stolen cattle were abandoned to the rescuers; in this case I have not heard of anybody being wounded, though, as it was already dark, some of the Bulgarians may, perhaps, have been hit.

On the following day, a young Turk of Kiupekli was tied to a tree, and his cattle (one pair of oxen, one pair of buffaloes) carried off by armed Bulgarians.

The Prefect of Bourgas is acquainted with these circumstances; he will do his best, but I doubt whether he will be able to find the means to act up to his intentions.

As far as I am able to judge, I do not believe that a permanent state of tranquillity can be maintained until either—

1. The Bulgarian peasants be disarmed of the rifles bequeathed to them by the Russians.

2. Some Bulgarian, or Greek, or Turk be either hung or publicly beaten for murder, theft, or outrage upon women.

The peasants of Kizildjik (a farm belonging to my brother and to me) received about eight months since three rifles from the authorities of Aïdos, who gave them strict injunctions not to fire until a Turk was killed or wounded by Bulgars.

In the skirmish between the men of Kizildjik and the would-be robbers, it is to be supposed that the Turks used the three rifles given them for their protection.

As far as I can learn, the Turkish mountain-villages are now resolved to protect themselves, at any cost, against Bulgarian brigands, and are equally determined not to give any pretext for oppression on the part of the ruling Bulgarian element.

Unless the authorities of Eastern Roumelia can send a disciplined force capable of maintaining order without committing excesses, I do not see how the Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks are to be restrained from robbery, extortion, and ill-treatment of women, nor how the Turkish peasant can be prevented from reprisals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 429.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul-General Palgrave.

Sir, *Rustchuk, August* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I witnessed to-day the ceremony of transferring the Russian Danube flotilla to the Bulgarian navy, which took place here in front of the Boulevard. During the forenoon those vessels which yesterday flew the Russian flag had no colours displayed. About 11·30 A.M. I passed with my Austrian colleague, and found the sailors carrying out their personal effects. Between 12 and 1 o'clock precisely the Bulgarian flag was hoisted to the music of a gipsy band and amidst hurrahs from the spectators, who were, I am bound to confess, very few in number.

The flags used were of three sorts: (1st) the ensign or flag at the stern—a large tricolour, white, green, and red, having a red shield bearing a yellow lion rampant, in the centre of the green field; (2ndly) the pennant, white, with red St. Andrew's cross, and having two tails; (3rdly) the jack, or flag at the bowsprit, the ordinary Bulgarian tricolour without the shield.

The vessels so transferred were the river monitors "Gorney Studen" and "Poradim," each with one gun; the despatch-boats "Dzriff" and "Opit," each with one gun; six steam-launches, and a large ferry-boat, built for the transport of railway carriages from Giurgevo to Rustchuk.

Nearly all the remaining officers and soldiers are embarking in the "Gaoutch," the last remaining Russian steamer, and will sail to-night.

Those officers who still remain, such as Colonel Goethe and his engineers, have received orders to put themselves in civilian clothes, so that by the 1st August (o.s.) there should not be a single Russian uniform in the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 429.

Acting Vice-Consul Marengo to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Trebizonde, le 8 Août*, 1879.

L'ÉMIGRATION Laze ayant cessé depuis quelques jours, je viens remettre ci-inclus à votre Excellence la liste de cette émigration depuis le mois de Mai dernier, d'après le relevé officiel de la Commission *ad hoc* siégeant à Batoum.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) F. MARENGO.

Inclosure 6 in No. 429.

Mouvement de l'Emigration Laze, du 5 Avril au 29 Juin, 1879.

Date du Départ.	Noms des Bateaux.	Nombre d'Emigrants.	Lieux de Destination.
Avril 5	Djamik	115	Trébizonde.
" 10	Cheref Ressan	112	"
" 13	Medari Teffik	95	"
" 24	Djamik	55	"
Mai 1	Cheref Ressan	111	Ugun.
" 8	Medari Teffik	232	Samsoun.
" 15	Djamik	10	Ugun.
" 15	"	16	Trébizonde.
" 15	"	53	Samsoun.
" 15	"	95	Ugun.
" 22	Cheref Ressan	36	Trébizonde.
" 22	"	283	Samsoun.
" 29	Medari Teffik	43	Ordou.
" 29	"	207	Samsoun.
Juin 5	Djamik	200	Ugun.
" 5	"	191	Trébizonde.
" 5	"	22	Ordou.
" 5	"	193	Samsoun.
" 13	Cheref Ressan	1,112	Ugun.
" 13	"	1,150	Kemssouride.
" 20	"	106	Terebuli.
" 20	"	400	Ordou.
" 20	"	385	Constantinople.
" 29	"	711	Samsoun.
	Total	5,933	

Inclosure 7 in No. 429.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, August* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that since my arrival here a fortnight ago nothing of importance has occurred in this province for me to report upon, and that perfect tranquillity continues to reign in this town and the surrounding districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. BLUNT.

No. 430.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 182.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 4, 1879.

M. BOERESCO, the Foreign Minister, took his departure yesterday, as reported by me by telegraph to your Lordship.

Considerable pressure had been brought upon him to give up his projected tour in consequence of the satisfactory progress which had been made in the negotiations on the Jewish question by the Finance Minister, M. Stourdza, at Berlin and Kissingen, but all to no avail.

The intention of M. Boeresco to proceed as far as St. Petersburgh without any serious avowed motive is much commented upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 431.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 184.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 19, 1879.

SOME foreign journals having taken cognizance of the expulsion from some Roumanian districts of persons professing the Jewish creed under the law in force against vagrants, the Minister of the Interior has addressed to his colleague, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, a letter giving some explanation of these proceedings, which, having appeared in print in Roumania, I beg leave to forward a French translation of it for your Lordship's information.

The laws in force here against vagrants are very stringent, and give the authorities power to expel foreigners in certain cases in a way similar to the "Alien Acts" of other countries.

I understand that some Austrian Jews who have felt aggrieved by these measures have applied to their Legation, but no similar complaint has reached me from any person claiming British nationality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 431.

M. Cogalniceano to M. Boerescu.

(Traduction.)
M. le Ministre,

J'AI vu le télégramme de M. l'Agent Diplomatique de la Roumanie à Paris joint à votre adresse relative à la mesure prise par le Gouvernement contre les vagabonds étrangers qui se trouvent dans le pays.

L'Alliance Israélite prétend aussi avec cette occasion que la mesure prise s'appliquerait comme persécution spécialement contre les Juifs, citant comme exemple l'Administration de Focksani, qui aurait expulsé des chefs de familles établis dans le pays depuis plus de trente ans.

M. le Ministre, pour rejeter des insinuations de cette nature, il n'y a pas un meilleur moyen qu'en citant et produisant des actes officiels qui se trouvent dans l'archive du Ministère.

Il est vrai que le Gouvernement, effrayé du nombre des vagabonds, a défendu d'un côté de la frontière le passage en Roumanie de ces vagabonds, mais de l'autre côté il a pris des mesures légales et d'expulsion contre ceux qui se trouvent dans le pays, soient-ils Chrétiens ou Israélites. En même temps, afin de connaître le nombre, les catégories, et la nationalité de ceux expulsés, on a demandé à Messieurs les Préfets d'envoyer des listes mensuales à la fin de chaque mois.

Des renseignements reçus jusqu'à présent il resulte que le nombre total des vagabonds de différentes nationalités ne surpasse 100 individus expulsés de la Roumanie.

Ils furent expulsés parce qu'ils n'avaient pas des passeports en règle et parce qu'ils mendiaient sur les rues sans avoir aucune occupation.

On pourra donc facilement connaître avec combien de ménagement on a procédé à l'expulsion des vagabonds, si on considère que, sur une population flottante, sans exagération de 100,000, à peu près tous étrangers, on n'a expulsé qu'à peine 100 individus.

Pour prouver qu'il n'existe aucune persécution religieuse dans cette mesure, j'ai l'honneur d'annexer une liste des noms de ceux expulsés du district Vlachca. De cette liste on voit que la grande majorité des individus notés ne sont pas Juifs, mais Chrétiens, et quelques-uns même Roumains.

Une pareille disposition prise même contre les Roumains paraîtrait étrange à ceux qui ne connaissent nos lois.

Mais deux Articles de la loi de la police rurale expliquent aussi cette disposition; c'est l'Article 10 et l'Article 108.

Les Articles cités s'appliquaient, et s'appliquent toujours, sans exception de nationalité ou de religion.

Les Chrétiens, étrangers ou Roumains, se sont soumis sans protester, seulement les Juifs ont réclamé, et réclament même, contre les lois du pays, dont ils se prétendent d'être les fils.

Ils ne veulent comprendre, et ne peuvent pas comprendre, que le vagabondage est défendu dans tous les pays.

Toutes ces considérations ne peuvent être comprises par des hommes pour qui la patrie signifie la religion, et qui se croient persécutés lorsqu'un de leurs coreligionnaires est renvoyé dans sa patrie.

Pour prouver ceci j'ai l'honneur d'annexer ici le Rapport de M. le Préfet du district de Poutna. Vous pourrez connaître par ce Rapport les scrupules de la vérité des journaux dévoués à la cause Israélite.

En terminant je vous prie, M. le Ministre, de vouloir communiquer à nos Agents de l'étranger que le Gouvernement actuel se donne la peine de tranquilliser les esprits du pays par des mesures contre les vagabonds, et qu'il est en même temps décidé de ne pas tolérer, dans l'exécution de cette mesure, aucun abus, aucun excès de zèle.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) COGALNICEANO.

No. 432.

Consul-General Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Sivas, Anatolia, August* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a letter which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople containing some remarks on a few of the points which came under my notice during my recent journey in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 432.

Consul-General Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sivas, Anatolia, August* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I arrived at this place on the 24th July last, and that Captain Stewart took up his residence as Vice-Consul at Konieh on the 28th June and Captain Cooper at Kaisariyeh on the 12th July.

I will not trouble your Excellency with a detailed account of my journey since leaving Brusa on the 7th June, but will confine myself to some remarks on a few of the points which came under my notice.

Zaptiehs.—The zaptieh force is in a deplorable state; the men are too few in number, wretchedly armed, often with nothing better than flint-lock muskets; and of those we came in contact with, not more than three or four could be considered fit men to act as urban or rural police. In some places the zaptiehs were many months in arrear of pay; in others they were the servants of local Notables lent to the Government; and the villagers complained much of their extortion and oppression. Such a force is quite unable to give proper protection to life and property or to meet roving bands of well-armed Circassians on equal terms.

No reform is more urgently needed in Anatolia than the formation of a disciplined corps of gendarmerie; such a corps to be efficient should be essentially military in character; well armed, unconnected with local Beys or Notables, and, at first, to a certain extent, officered by Europeans.

Courts of Justice.—The state of the Courts leaves much to be desired; the Councils, though in theory elected by the people, are really nominated by the local Government, or the seats on them are sold; bribery and corruption are the rule, not the exception; retention in or escape from prison is frequently a matter of bribery; there is a general complaint that justice is rarely executed on behalf of a Christian or against a Moslem; and that though Christian evidence is nominally received, little or no weight is attached to it in the Courts. The cost of litigation is so great that the villagers when robbed often refrain from bringing the robbery to the notice of the local authorities; the uncertainty of obtaining a verdict, the loss of time involved by compulsory attendance at the chief town of the Kaimakamlik, and the expense of the trial sufficiently account for this.

The Judges are, not unfrequently, well-intentioned men; but with small pay, and

that too often in arrear, they are not always able to resist the temptation of increasing their income by accepting bribes. At Nigdeh and Bor, towns with a large Christian population, there were many complaints of the corruption of the Judges and the Courts, and I have requested Captain Stewart to remain a few days in those places when he visits them.

I trust that the changes which have recently been made will beneficially affect the administration of justice in the vilayets; at present the effect has been to add a number of new officials to each vilayet, who, if some special provision be not made for the payment of their salaries, must resort to the same means of obtaining a livelihood as the existing judicial staff.

The advantage of one of the changes by which all control over the Courts is taken from the Vali, or Governor-General, is doubtful. The Vali was formerly a protection against open corruption; he could, if he wished, see that petitions were taken in turn, that the Court was not clogged by cases, and call in question unfair decisions, or punish members of the Councils. This check has been removed, the judicial is separated from the executive, and the officers of justice are, I believe, to have their own corps of zaptiehs. The change is likely to render the work of a Consul more difficult, for the influence which he was formerly able to exert through the Vali is to a certain extent gone.

At present the Christian members of the Councils, from want of independence or timidity, are often afraid to oppose unjust decisions, and frequently merely follow the lead of the Moslem members. If steps could be taken to ensure that the members of the Councils were freely elected by the people a salutary change would be effected, especially if the elections were always held at the proper periods. At Sivas no elections have taken place for between six and seven years. Bribery and corruption can only be checked by the regular payment of official salaries, and the growth of public opinion; officials on low salaries, and six months in arrear of pay, as they are at Sivas, can scarcely be expected to remain pure.

Tenure of Office.—Very few of the officials I met had been in office two years; a large proportion had only been a few months, and in one town, Eregli, there had been twelve Kaïmakams in three years. It is very desirable that the Mutesarifs, Kaïmakams, and Mudirs should hold office, during good behaviour, for a fixed term of years; in the present state of uncertainty many of them endeavour, by well-known means, to recoup themselves for past expenses, and to make as quickly as they can provision for the future.

Taxes.—The evils connected with the system of collecting the taxes are well known; I will only mention that on the road from Kaisariyeh to Sivas the Christian villagers complained much of the manner in which their property had been assessed for the verghi. The assessors appear to have valued Christian property too high, whilst Moslem property was undervalued. The peasantry generally complained of the delay in collecting the tithes, and of the losses incurred by having to leave their grain on the ground, and, in cases, their fruit on the trees, till the collectors came round.

Refugees.—There is probably no other country in which the settlement of a large body of refugees, of different nationalities, and almost destitute of the necessaries of life, could have been so quietly and speedily effected. The Refugee Commissioners in the vilayets have had a most difficult task to perform, and, as far as I have yet seen, they have accomplished it well. The cost of settling the refugees has in some cases been a severe tax on the people, but it seems to have been cheerfully borne. The only complaints I heard were at Eregli, where the Circassians would not leave the town, and the people had for more than a year been obliged to supply 219 persons with a monthly allowance of 20 piastres (about 3*s.* 6*d.*) and 36 lbs. of corn each, besides providing them with free quarters.

Circassians.—With the Circassian question the Commissioners have been powerless to deal, as the Turkish Government allowed the Circassians to land in the country fully armed, and there is no local force able to control them. It is hardly possible not to feel sympathy for a physically fine people, endowed with many good qualities, who have endured so many vicissitudes, but the Circassians are certainly, at present, one of the principal causes of the insecurity to life and property in the vilayets. In the Konieh vilayet the Circassians are few in number, and a slight exhibition of force would induce them to submit to disarmament and distribution in the villages in accordance with the orders of the Government. In the Vilayet of Sivas the case is different: the Circassians are more numerous, and in several places form separate communities; they appear to be under slight control, as the power of the Beys has

been broken, and the local Government possesses little influence over them. Robberies are not unfrequent on the road, and a feeling of insecurity has been created which has had an injurious influence on trade. This feeling is increased by the fact that the Circassians, having powerful protectors in the Councils, are rarely punished, and that those who attempt to bring them to justice have good reason to fear their revenge. The robber bands are well known, and could be easily suppressed if the Government showed itself in earnest; and if the Circassian Beys were held responsible for the conduct of their people disturbances would soon cease. The majority of the Circassians, under a firm Government, would, I believe, soon settle down and form a source of strength rather than of weakness to Turkey.

Condition of the Country.—The recent war has been a severe strain upon the resources of the country, especially in men; in some villages in the south more than three-fourths of the able-bodied men had been drawn; in others, towards the north, every man had been taken, and the cultivation of the ground carried on by the old men, women, and children. Few of the men have yet returned, though their presence has been much needed for getting in the harvest.

The harvest this year has been varied; in some districts it has been abundant; in others, towards the south, the locusts have destroyed almost everything; whilst in others a deficiency of rain has caused a partial failure; there appeared, however, to be nowhere any fear of scarcity. The districts affected by the famine, six years ago, have not yet nearly recovered from its effects.

It was impossible not to be struck with the quiet, and apparently safe, state of the greater portion of the country traversed; when all the circumstances, a complete absence of regular troops, and, virtually, no police, are considered, the small number of robberies and acts of violence is surprising, and slight efforts on the part of the Government would ensure security to every one.

The state of the peasantry, Christian and Moslem, is nearly everywhere deplorable; if possible, the burden of the Moslem is harder to bear than that of his Christian fellow-subject, for he has no one to appeal to, and has suffered far more from the effects of the war. The people, ruined by the repudiation of caïmé, have again suffered by the depreciation of copper; they are overwhelmed with debt contracted at a ruinous discount, and the peasant who can manage to secure for himself out of all the bare necessaries of life is fortunate.

The most urgent reform needed by these poor people is relief from the merciless robbery of the tax collectors, and the grasping avarice of the money lenders; such relief can only result from an earnest effort at good government, and must be the work of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 433.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 26.*)

(No. 52. Consular.)
Jeddah, August 6, 1879.

My Lord,

IT was fully expected here that the new Governor-General would have been accompanied by a new Kaïmakam for Jeddah. Such, however, has not been the case, and this town is still left to be ruled by a man whose capacities are so low that he would be unfit to hold any post of responsibility, however small. Added to a want of administrative capacity, the Kaïmakam is so lacking in truthfulness that it is impossible to put faith in any verbal assurance or promise he may make, any assertion he may make, or any request he may put forward. The late Governor-General not only told me that Alee Bey was quite unfit for his post, but he publicly stated this, and he several times reprimanded him.

I have to be in almost hourly communication with the Kaïmakam, and his incapacity and want of veracity come so frequently and so strikingly before me in marring the progress of affairs and obstructing the course of justice, that, however unwillingly, I am bound to request your Lordship, if it is possible, to obtain his recall.

I may add that Nashid Pasha was not in the town twenty-four hours before he told me the Kaïmakam was not fit for the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 434.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 53. Consular.)
My Lord, *Jeddah, August 7, 1879.*

I REGRET to have to report that the new Governor-General, Nashid Pasha, was taken ill on the evening of the 4th instant.

I called on his Excellency on the 6th instant. I found him in bed, and he appeared really ill. He told me that he had intended to remain here for some time, but his illness had so impressed him with the necessity of getting to a purer atmosphere that he intended starting at once for Mecca; but he assured me he would return to Jeddah after the pilgrimage season, that is, in December.

I was most anxious that the Governor-General should remain here, as there are many important questions to settle, but this unfortunate illness of the Vali has deprived us of the only functionary who could carry out measures and settle complicated questions, and we are again left to the guidance of a Kaïmakam who is neither respected nor feared by any one.

With the population in a ferment regarding the copper coinage, with the Ramazan close at hand, when fanaticism will be excited, and men's tempers will be sorely tried by fasting, I look upon the next two months with anxiety, for I expect there will be serious riots in the towns, and there will be wholesale murder and pillage of pilgrims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 435.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 54. Consular.)
My Lord, *Jeddah, August 7, 1879.*

I HAVE to report that a riot occurred in Mecca yesterday in connection with the question of the copper coins.

The Acting Governor-General, supposing that if he fixed the value of the copper coins the people would accept his decision and take the coins at the price he fixed, issued a Proclamation, in which the piastre-piece was declared to be out of circulation, the ½ piastre was to be legal at the value of ¼ piastre, and the ¼ piastre at ⅛ or 5 paras. This Proclamation had a very different effect from that anticipated by the Acting Vali, for instead of satisfying the people it increased the irritation, and the bazaars were at once closed.

The population, finding the sources of food cut off for the second or third time within the month, appear to have lost all control over themselves; they rose, and breaking open the shops, cleared them of all eatables. The riot was still going on when the post left.

In Yemen I hear the conflict has become serious, and blood has been shed, but to what extent I have been unable to learn.

Should the Bedouins keep quiet there will be nothing very serious to apprehend in this province, but if they rise the consequences may be very serious, for the Government has no force adequate to cope with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 436.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 8, 1879.*

IN reply to a telegram received from your Lordship, inquiring whether any Russian troops yet remained in Bulgaria, I had the honour yesterday to state by telegram as follows:—

That I was assured, by information received both from official and private sources, that the very last remaining body of Russian troops, namely, a Cossack regiment of horse, had embarked at Rustchuk, on the Danube, bound for Russia viâ Reni, on the 25th July (o. s.), or the 6th August (N. S.), so that at the present moment there were absolutely no Russian troops whatever left in Bulgaria.

I have now the honour to subjoin: that the Cossack regiment in question was called the "Ural," and had formed part of the Shumla occupation division.

That its embarkation was from Silistria, and not from Rustchuk, as I erroneously stated. The error was due to my having confused the movements of this regiment with those of another, also Cossack, which did, in fact, embark from Rustchuk three days earlier, namely, 21st July / 2nd August. The Minister of War, General Parenzoff, informed me that the intention had been to put both regiments on board at Rustchuk, and at the same time, but that the means at hand had, on trial, proved insufficient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 437.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 155.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday I received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs communication of a Decree issued the day previous by His Highness the Prince, establishing throughout all the district towns of the Principality special Courts for the purpose of reintegrating such Mahommedan inhabitants as emigrated during the war, and have since returned, or may return, in the property by them abandoned at the time of their emigration.

The determining cause of this measure was a conversation which I had the honour of holding about twelve days since with His Highness, in the course of which I strongly urged, according to instructions received, the necessity of immediate steps being taken in this direction. As it appeared on discussion that the principal cause of the delays, misrepresented as intentional obstructions, arose from the overburdening of the ordinary Courts by the multitude of cases simultaneously brought before them, His Highness graciously suggested the successory organization now embodied by himself in Council in the above-mentioned Decree.

Its principal features are as follows:—

1. The object of the special Courts is to reinstate emigrant Mahommedan subjects in the possession of their real property.

2. The jurisdiction of each Court is co-extensive with the entire district in the principal town of which it holds its sittings.

3. The same jurisdiction is strictly limited to the questions of property above indicated.

4. Each Court is composed of the District Governor as President and of four members, two of whom are to be Christians and two Mahommedan. They are designated from among the inhabitants of the district, and are confirmed by the Prince.

5. The sittings are daily. Non-attendance without sufficient cause is punished by a heavy fine.

6. The Court has entire competency in all cases where the claim presented is not contested by any other concurrent emigrant claimant. But where two or more rival emigrant Mahommedan claimants present themselves, the case is, without loss of time, to be referred to the ordinary Tribunals.

7. If a claimant be dissatisfied with the decision of the special Court, he may bring his claim by appeal before the ordinary Tribunals.

8. The decisions of the Court go by a majority of voices among its members. But should they be equally divided (two and two) the President has the casting vote.

9. The sentence of the Court, if affirmative, gives full and immediate right of possession.

10. Such possession has force for three years; at the expiration of which it must

be ratified by a permanent title-deed, applied for, drawn up, and granted in the ordinary form and by the ordinary authorities.

11. During the intervening three years the proprietor can dispose of, sell, or otherwise alienate the property adjudged him at will, and the new proprietors enjoy the same rights as the original one. But at the expiration of the three years' term the actual proprietor, whoever he may be, is bound to exchange the provisory for a permanent title-deed.

12. During the same three years the property assigned by Decree of the special Court may be contested by another claimant, should such appear, before the ordinary Courts. But the three years expired, no fresh claims can be admitted against the original Decree.

13. The special Courts will exercise jurisdiction for six months.

14. The above Decree will be submitted for approval to the first National Assembly.

Such are the principal provisions of this Decree, which, if honestly and vigorously carried out, as there appears every intention of doing, cannot fail to remove, at least in a great measure, a serious ground of complaint. The chief difficulty will lie in finding a sufficiency of well instructed and trustworthy members for the Courts, above twenty in number, thus instituted.

I have omitted, as tedious and not requiring report, some minor details of the Decree; the original itself, like other similar documents, being deposited for reference among the archives of this Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 438.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 156.)
Sophia, August 8, 1879.

My Lord,

REFERRING to my previous despatch No. 117 of the 29th June, present series, and its inclosure, namely, a translation of the new Bulgarian Constitution as first published, I have now the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a republication of the same Constitution, bearing date $\frac{10}{28}$th April, but only lately distributed. The form is more convenient than that of the older publication.

The only textual difference between the two copies is, that in Article 141, second paragraph, the words "of all" are inserted after "two thirds." In every other respect the translation I had previously the honour of transmitting holds good for the republication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 439.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 157.)
Sophia, August 8, 1879.

My Lord,

HAVING observed many notices in the papers about a Danube flotilla, said to have been presented by the Russian Government to the Bulgarian Principality, I thought it advisable to address some inquiries on the subject to the Minister of War, General Parenzoff, within whose jurisdiction the navy is also included, and received from him, in reply, the following information, which I have the honour to communicate to your Lordship:

The flotilla consists of four small steam-boats, two of them tugs, and two of the kind used for breaking through the winter ice on the Danube. They are wooden, and not capable of carrying metal; they were used after the war for towing transports.

The sea-boat, named the Saouk-Soo, is a small wooden steamer, very slow, and with little accommodation on board. In fair weather she can do the run from Varna to Odessa. She was intended to serve as a kind of yacht for the Prince, but it is doubtful whether she can really be employed for that purpose. She carries no metal, only two small guns of the kind used on board merchantmen. Her crew, as also the crews of the two tugs, and the two ice-boats before-mentioned, are Russians, not however, belonging to the Russian navy; they will shortly be replaced by natives. Thus far the Minister of War.

I have only to add that, while at Rustchuk last month, I saw the two tugs in question, and that their appearance entirely corresponded to the description given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 440.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 158.)
Sophia, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

REGARDING the Bulgaro-Servian frontier at Veliki Izvor, I have the honour to report that the Delimitation Commission having, in accordance with the directions given in the Treaty of Berlin, Article II, followed the original Turko-Servian frontier line, as defined by the Imperial Firman of 1833, the Bulgarian Government has declared itself perfectly satisfied in that regard. Should any differences arise, they would be from some ulterior claims or protests against the validity of the Firman before-mentioned, which the Servian Government is said to hold in reserve.

Some slight difficulties have, however, occurred on the Trn and Breznik parts of the frontier, where the line of demarcation frequently separates between villages, Bulgarian or Servian as the case may be, and the lands belonging to them, thereby causing not a little inconvenience to the villagers themselves, and a ready occasion for quarrels. To remedy those evils the Bulgarian Government has appointed two special Commissioners, who, in concert with any equal number of Servian Commissioners, have already, I am informed, betaken themselves to the localities in question, in order to make such arrangements as may best suit the land proprietors on either side.

The relations between the two Principalities are, at the present moment, of an entirely amicable nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 441.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 159.)
Sophia, August 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that some frontier disturbances having taken place in the neighbourhood of Jumaa, where the Turkish and Bulgarian peasants mutually annoyed each other, and again in the neighbourhood of Kustendil, further west, where the Ottoman troops appear to have crossed the frontier and committed some depredations, His Highness the Prince, after consultation with his Ministers, commissioned Colonel Chilaieff, a Georgian officer at present in the Bulgarian service, and speaking Turkish fluently, to make a visit of investigation at the places above-mentioned.

Both at Jumaa, by the local Turkish Governor, Suleiman Beg, and at Egri-Palanka, opposite Kustendil, by the Governor, Noori Pasha, Colonel Chilaieff was, as I am informed, courteously received, the existing disagreements between the peasantry were amicably settled, and promise was given by Noori Pasha that neither by Turkish regulars or irregulars should the frontier be again violated. Colonel Chilaieff further reports that he found the dispositions of the Ottoman frontier authorities at the posts above mentioned entirely satisfactory in every respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE

No. 442.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 160.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 9, 1879.*

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatch No. 80 of the 19th June, present year, together with the inclosed petition from the Mussulmans of the Varna district, as also to my despatches No. 132 and No. 141, stating the application made by myself in consequence to the Bulgarian authorities, I have now the honour to report that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Balabanow, having, according to his promise, written to M. Zancoff, Governor of the Varna district, urging an inquiry into the alleged outrages, informed me this morning of a preliminary reply, just received by himself from the said M. Zancoff, in which the latter stated that he had thus far received authentic information of only one Mussulman found murdered within the Pravadi district; but that the police had not as yet been able to discover the murderers, whether Bulgarians or others. The crime had been committed on a high road. Further, that careful inquiry was being instituted into the other cases enumerated in the petition, and that a full statement would be supplied in a few days.

This I accordingly hope to be able to communicate to your Lordship very shortly, as M. Zancoff's known energy leaves me no doubt that he will use every effort to master the entire truth as quickly as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 443.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 11, 1879.*

I HAD the honour to telegraph this day to your Lordship in the following sense:—

"That the Ottoman Commissioner, Pertev Effendi, had arrived here, bearing the Firman of investiture for His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, but no decoration or like mark of favour. That the Prince had received the Commissioner in exactly the same form as that employed for a foreign Diplomatic Agent, and had in return invited him to a dinner at the Palace, where the Minister for Foreign Affairs was present, and the health of His Majesty the Ottoman Sultan was duly drunk. His Highness on this occasion presented Pertev Effendi with a very handsome snuff-box, jewelled, I am told, which was gladly received."

I have now the honour to subjoin that a guard of honour was sent to meet Pertev Effendi at the frontier, but by an accident missed him. The Effendi remains yet a couple of days, but unofficially, at Sophia, after which he returns to Constantinople, making some stay at Philippopoli by the way. The Mussulman population here paid no attention whatever to his arrival.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 444.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 162.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 11, 1879.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 148, present series, of the 1st August, I have the honour to report that I have this day received official confirmation from the Minister of War of the details contained in the above despatch regarding the demolition of the fortress throughout Bulgaria, in accordance with Article XI of the Treaty of Berlin. His Excellency further informed me that some progress had been made towards the destruction of the works at Shumla, but that their great solidity, and the consequent expense required for their removal, must of necessity somewhat delay their entire demolition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 445.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, as communicated to myself personally by His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, that His Highness' Aide-de-camp and special messenger, Baron Corvin, has just returned from Bucharest and Nisch, whither he had gone as bearer of letters of amity and regard from His Highness to the Princes Charles of Roumania and Milan of Servia. The Baron's reception by their Highnesses the Princes above-mentioned was most friendly, and the treatment he experienced in either Principality courteous in the extreme. He has brought back with him letters of a very satisfactory character.

Further, that Colonel Gruich and Prince Alexander Stourdza are shortly to follow hither, the former as Diplomatic Agent for Servia, the latter, who is also the bearer of a first-class decoration for His Highness of Bulgaria, for Roumania.

Lastly, that, the better to cement and promote friendly relations, His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria purposes visiting the Princes of Roumania and Servia respectively, the former at Bucharest, the latter at Belgrade, early in October next, returning to Sophia in good time before the opening of the National Assembly on the 27th of that month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 446.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 167.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 14, 1879.*

IN reference to the alleged outrages committed by Christian on Mahommedan Bulgarians in the Varna and Pravadi districts, I have the honour to report that I have just received answers from Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consuls at Rustchuk and Varna to my inquiries addressed to them on the subject.

The former officer in a private letter mentions a scandalous outrage which he believes to have occurred at a village near Pravadi, where some women seem to have been violated by Bulgarian soldiers. But this, Mr. Dalziel continues, occurred in May, that is, under the Russian Provisional, not under the Bulgarian Government.

Mr. Brophy, from Varna, after diligent research, considers four instances of murder as certain. But these all, without exception, occurred under the Provisional Government during the spring, not under the Bulgarian. One outrage, the attack and plunder of a village near Varna, did, indeed, occur about a month ago. The brigands were mixed, Mahommedans and Christians; some wore the Circassian dress. They tortured, to get money, the headman of the village, a Christian, and some of the villagers, Mahommedans, with much impartiality. The brigands have taken refuge in the mountains.

Governor Zancoff's report yet remains. But, awaiting it, I have no hesitation in making the following statements:—

1. That the Russian Provisional Government, for ends of its own readily imagined, did undoubtedly, during last winter and spring, not merely connive at, but even promote rough usage of the Mahommedan population between Varna and the Balkans, with the intention of causing them to emigrate. Few instances, indeed, are proved, but enough to disgrace the perpetrators or instigators.

2. That the present Government has not only not connived at, but has done everything in its power to hinder or to punish such outrages.

3. That what few instances have since occurred are essentially acts of brigandage

and ordinary crime, independent of sect or creed; though owing to circumstances the criminal ranks have been recruited more largely among Mahommedan than among Christian Bulgarians. These crimes are the residuary legacy, partly of the war, partly of bad government for years before the war, and, in the Varna-Pravadi district, for more than a year after it.

4. That the circumstances of the above-named district were exceptional, and did not in the least extend to the Sophia and Widdin districts, very slightly to the easterly belt of those of Rustchuk and Tirnovo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 447.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 168.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 14, 1879.*

THIS day, in reply to a telegram received from your Lordship, I had the honour to telegraph in the following sense:—

That some days since I had received from his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard a despatch *en clair*, stating that Major Ardagh and his party had been fired on by thirty Bulgarians, and requesting me to lay the matter before the Bulgarian Government. I had some doubt as to the propriety of doing so, the names of the localities mentioned in his Excellency's telegram being all in Macedonia, and consequently not under Bulgarian but Turkish jurisdiction. However, I thought it better to comply with his Excellency's request, and communicated the matter to the Bulgarian authorities. Next morning I received a telegram from his Excellency, stating that the information contained in his previous despatch was incorrect, or wholly false; but renewing the request, that I would urge all suitable measures of protection and assistance to Major Ardagh and his party when they should arrive. This also I did, receiving the positive assurances that his Excellency's wishes should be fully carried out.

Yesterday, early, Major Ardagh himself telegraphied to me his arrival at Kustendil, and his intention of proceeding next day to Samakow, begging me to make request of protection to the Bulgarian Government. This I did, and orders for a suitable escort, guides, and the rest were at once sent by telegraph to Kustendil, Samakow, and the neighbourhood.

I have the honour to add that His Highness the Prince's Secretary and the Minister of War, in whose special care are the frontiers, having called on me this morning, shortly after my receipt of your Lordship's telegram regarding Major Ardagh, I once more insisted on the measures recommended by your Lordship, and received positive assurance that they had been already anticipated in the execution.

So far as I know, there is not the smallest ground to apprehend any want of courtesy and protection, much less any positive danger or hindrance to Major Ardagh and his party while engaged in their work on the Bulgarian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 448.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 236.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 12, 1879.*

I HAVE just been informed by M. Ristich that, on Sunday, the 10th instant, a fresh attack was made on the Servian territory by Albanians, who crossed the frontier and penetrated as far as the village of Zlishane, where they were met and driven back by a body of Servian troops. There were, as usual, only a few killed and wounded on either side; but it is feared that this is merely a kind of reconnaissance, which will be soon followed by attacks in force, for it is reported there are no less than 8,000 Albanians assembled in close proximity to the frontier.

The Vali of Kossovo has warned the Servian Government of the danger they are

exposed to; but he is said to have declared, at the same time, that he cannot act owing to the insufficiency of the forces under his command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 449.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 237.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 13, 1879.*

The mission of Baron Corvin to Prince Milan, referred to in my despatch No. 221 of the 4th instant, has, it is here reported, been productive of most satisfactory results, and Prince Alexander of Bulgaria has announced his intention of shortly paying, in person, a visit to His Highness Prince Milan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 450.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 239. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 14, 1879.*

THE Russian Member of the European Boundary Commission for Servia has informed Captain Anderson that his Government has entered into communications with the other Signatory Powers to obtain their assent to the employment of the Commission for the revision of the question which has arisen with regard to the Dobrudscha (Arab Tabia) frontier, seeing that the Commission has completed the delimitation of this Principality, and that it is so close to Silistria.

He has likewise stated his Government are prepared to submit to the decision of the majority. Should this prove to be the case, it is probably due to the assurances he has given his Government of his ability to secure a majority in their favour amongst his colleagues on the Servian Commission, and thus to obtain a reversal of the adverse vote of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

He has no doubt succeeded of late in gaining so marked an ascendency over many of his colleagues, that were the alleged Russian proposal accepted by the Powers, there is great cause to fear it would be tantamount to conceding the point at issue; at least, such is the opinion entertained by the Commissioners of both England and France, an opinion in which I fully concur.

It would be needless, as well as an invidious task, for me to take up your Lordship's valuable time with an account of the shortcomings of several of the members of the Commission, or of the repeated and violent personal altercations which have occurred at its meetings, more particularly since its return to Belgrade. I will accordingly confine myself to stating that, neither in respect to the capacity nor to the present temper of its members, would the selection of this Commission for the proposed object be, as far as I am in a position to judge, a happy one.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to Captain Anderson, Her Majesty's Commissioner, and to Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, for the zealous devotion to duty with which they have struggled on to secure the due performance of the task assigned to them, and the conciliatory spirit they have at all times given proof of under unusually trying circumstances.

Within a very few days the Servian Commission, as such, will have ceased to exist, and since the Russian Commissioner himself acknowledges that, before undertaking any fresh mission, he will have to proceed to St. Petersburgh and Constantinople to confer with his superiors, and to obtain the requisite instructions and full powers, it is difficult to take into serious consideration the pretexts put forward by the Russian Government as to the advantages of employing the Commission in revising the work of another Commission, towards which it has already stood in a subordinate position as regards the demarcation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 451.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 242.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 14, 1879.*

AT my suggestion Sermed Effendi, the Ottoman Envoy, applied some time ago to the Sublime Porte for authority formally to call upon the Servian Government to permit the return of the Albanian refugees, who withdrew during the late war from the territories which have been since ceded to Servia.

The Porte has now instructed him to take whatever diplomatic steps he may deem most advisable under the circumstances to promote the object he has in view. He at first intended to communicate the demand he has been charged to address to the Servian Government in the form of a *note verbale*, but on my representing to him that, in my opinion, such a mode of proceeding would scarcely be adequate to the occasion, considering that in reality a *note verbale* is merely a written record of a verbal communication, he has decided to address a formal note couched in firm, but, at the same time, conciliatory language.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 452.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 243. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 14, 1879.*

WITH reference to my preceding despatch No. 242 of to-day's date on the question of the return to Servia of the Albanian refugees, I have to add that it was in accordance with M. Ristich's secret suggestion I took upon myself to advise Sermed Effendi to address a formal demand on the subject to the Servian Government.

His Excellency has repeatedly assured me that he himself is very desirous to get this measure carried through, and that he feels confident he will eventually succeed in overcoming all opposition to it on the part of Prince Milan and his personal advisers, provided Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers refrain from taking up the matter too warmly at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 453.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 247.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the note referred to in my despatch No. 242 of the 14th instant, which Sermed Effendi has addressed to M. Ristich, demanding in the name of the Ottoman Government permission for the return of the Albanian refugees to their former homes in Servian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 453.

Sermed Effendi to M. Ristitch.

M. le Ministre, *Belgrade, le 5/17 Août, 1879.*

J'AI eu déjà l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence l'opinion de mon Gouvernement sur la question des Albanais, et tout en constatant, avec plaisir, le désir du Gouvernement Princier d'arriver à une solution pacifique et équitable de

cette question, je ne puis m'empêcher d'exprimer à votre Excellence toute mon inquiétude sur l'état d'agitation continuelle dans lequel se trouvent ces populations Albanaises qui, s'étant vues obligées de se disperser de lieux en lieux et d'abandonner leurs foyers, cherchent maintenant par tous les moyens possibles, par la force même, à rentrer dans la possession de leurs biens.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, justement ému par la situation créée aux Albanais, et voulant prévenir un développement plus considérable de l'effervescence que les mesures prises par le Gouvernement de son Altesse ne manquèrent pas de causer, renforça, au prix des plus grands sacrifices, ses troupes sur les frontières, et donna des ordres sévères à ses Commandants militaires pour empêcher et réprimer tout désordre.

Indépendamment, et unies par des sentiments de justice, les Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin se crurent justifiées d'intervenir et de faire, en vertu même de l'esprit du Traité, des représentations auprès du Gouvernement Princier, en faveur de ces populations Albanaises qui, sans abri ni asile, sont prêtes encore à faire usage de tous les moyens pour tâcher de reprendre possession de leurs propres foyers.

Le Gouvernement Impérial est fermement convaincu que la continuation de cet état de choses, le refus de la part du Gouvernement Princier de s'élever à la vraie hauteur que la situation comporte et, par l'adoption d'une mesure libérale et généreux, de mettre un terme à de continuelles inquiétudes, sont des faits qui se trouvent en contradiction non-seulement avec l'esprit véritable du Traité de Berlin, dont l'intention suprême est la pacification complète de l'Orient, mais aussi avec les intérêts intimes du Gouvernement de Son Altesse et la tranquillité future de ses États.

C'est donc en considération de ce triple point de vue, à savoir : la vraie et manifeste intention du Traité de Berlin, le droit imprescriptible que ces populations ont de rentrer dans la possession de leurs biens et, enfin, l'intérêt même du Gouvernement Princier, que j'ai l'honneur de faire, au nom du Gouvernement Impérial, par la présente note, une démarche officielle auprès du Gouvernement de Son Altesse pour demander le rappel des Albanais dans leurs foyers, le respect de leurs droits, et le libre exercice de leur religion.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) SERMED.

No. 454.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 248.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 18, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of extracts from Mr. Vice-Consul Baker's despatches Nos. 3 and 4 of the 15th and 16th instant, bearing upon the subject of the treatment of the Mussulman population at Nisch by the Servian local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 454.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

(Extract.) *Nisch, August 15, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of this day :—

"Ottoman Consul-General leaves to-day for Nisch; he will reside unofficially there pending conclusion of a Consular Convention between the two countries. You will give him every support and assistance in your power in prosecuting inquiries as to condition of Mussulman population. Her Majesty's Government and the other Signatory Powers take a vivid interest in seeing justice done to that population, who, there is much reason to fear, have been maltreated in various ways, especially as regards their property.

"You will receive further instructions by post.

"German Minister-Resident left this morning to present his letters of credence;

you would do well to call on him and communicate freely to him any information you may possess on the above subject, as both Governments are acting together in this matter."

In accordance with these instructions, I shall, of course, afford the Ottoman Consul-General all the assistance in my power, &c.

So far as I have been able to ascertain the grievances of the Turkish population, they resolve themselves under these three heads:—

1. Demolition of buildings for street improvements.
2. Demolition of houses for other purposes or objects.
3. The extra of seignorial rights.

As regards the first class of demolitions, there can be no doubt that many Turkish houses have been demolished, and also one mosque with graveyard. I have received from Servians the explanation that this has been done under the General Expropriation Laws, which affect Christians and Mussulmans alike. . . .

The removal of the mosque was no doubt desirable as a street improvement, but whether or not it was effected by the Turkish population consenting I am at present unable to say. . . .

There are three other mosques here, one of which is at present used as a magazine, the Servians contending that two are quite sufficient for the requirements of the Turkish population. . . .

I am told that the Servians are prepared to allow full compensation for the mosque which has been removed in the general valuation of Turkish ecclesiastical property ("vacouf").

The widening of the principal streets is, without doubt, a hardship on individuals, inasmuch as many of the proprietors have no capital to build new houses, and receive on the proceeds of the old ones a merely nominal sum. . . .

The market value of the materials is their intrinsic worth, less the cost of removing the rubbish; and purchasers are few, for the reason that capital is scarce.

Another evidence of this is, that the Turks are selling their landed property here at almost nominal prices. The Prince bought the konak for 1,500 ducats (less than 750*l.*), and Colonel Horvatovitch bought a little estate on the Nisheva, consisting of fifty acres of land, three houses, and stabling and stalls for 100 head of horses and cattle, at 500 ducats (or less than 250*l.*). Obviously there may be other explanations of this. . . .

The demolition of Turkish houses have taken place: (1), by the soldiery on the surrender of Nisch; and (2), by the local authorities on account of the buildings being alleged to be dangerous. . . .

The Servians cite a fact that seven or eight children, who had taken refuge in a Turkish house from a storm, were killed or seriously injured by the house falling on them. From the state of houses still standing I can believe that many were dangerous. I have no reliable information on the question of the number of houses destroyed as unsafe at this moment, but will endeavour to obtain it. . . .

I shall take the opportunity of calling on the German Minister, and give him such information on the subject of the Mussulman grievances as I am able. . . .

Inclosure 2 in No. 454.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

(Private.)
(Extract.)

Nisch, August 15, 1879.

FROM what passed in the conversation I have just had with the German Minister, I infer that the Turkish Minister has overstated his case for the Mussulman population here with regard to their personal safety. Though the Prefect of Nisch appears to be partial and unreliable, the Mahommedans and Jews find a good friend in Colonel Horvatovitch, who is always open to their visits, and who appears to me to appreciate their position and give them good advice, and I think he would also afford them personal protection in case of any fanatical outbreak, which, however, I have no reason to anticipate.

I should be glad of a copy of the Berlin Treaty. . . .

No. 455.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 259.)

Belgrade, August 20, 1879.

My Lord,

SERMED EFFENDI has kindly placed in my hands the instructions he drew up for Nicolaïdes Effendi, the Ottoman Consul-General at Nisch, with respect to the principal points he is to direct his attention to in reporting on the present condition of the Mussulman population of that district, and the manner in which they have been treated by the Servian authorities.

I have taken upon myself to communicate these instructions to Mr. Baker, the British Vice-Consul in that town, as they may prove of use to him in prosecuting the inquiries he has been directed to make on the same subject. A copy of them is, at the same time, transmitted herewith for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 455.

Sermed Effendi to Nicolaïdes Effendi.

Belgrade, le $\frac{3}{15}$ *Août*, 1879.

M. le Consul,

VOICI les instructions que je crois devoir vous donner avant votre départ pour Nisch.

Vous aurez à examiner tout d'abord quelles sont les différentes catégories de propriétaires. Pendant mon voyage à Nisch, j'ai eu l'occasion de m'assurer que parmi les propriétaires Musulmans il y a:—

1. Ceux qui étaient devenus propriétaires des biens appartenant à l'Etat ("arazi émirié"), et qui faisant usage du droit que leur accordait la loi, avaient, par contrat, concédé à des familles de paysans le droit de cultiver ces terres.

2. Ceux qui étaient devenus propriétaires des "arazii émirié," et qui avaient conservé la culture de ces terres.

3. Ceux qui possédaient les maisons ou terrains qui se trouvent dans l'enceinte de la forteresse (Mulk). On m'apprend que ces propriétés ont été confisquées par les Serbes, sous prétexte qu'elles appartiennent à la forteresse même.

M. Ristich prétend que le Gouvernement Princier, désirant régler les rapports de droit privé de certaines catégories de propriétaires qui recevaient la dîme ou d'autres prestations d'habitants établis sur des propriétés auxquelles certains droits étaient attachés, a désigné deux Commissions agraires pour étudier ces rapports.

Comment ces Commissions fonctionnent-elles?

M. Ristich prétend, également, que les plaignants appartiennent à une de ces trois catégories:—

1. Ceux qui en temps de la domination Turque avaient la question de fonds pupillaires ou de caisses d'épargne et qui se sont retirés à l'approche des armées Serbes, emportant avec eux documents et argent, sans rendre compte à personne.

2. Ceux qui sont restés débiteurs d'autres personnes et dont les biens ou leurs revenus ont été saisis par voie judiciaire au profit de leurs créanciers.

3. Ceux qui se retirant devant l'armée Serbe ont pris de force aux habitants des chars et des bœufs pour transporter les meubles, et qui ne les ont pas restitués.

En dehors de ces trois catégories n'y a-t-il pas d'autres plaignants?

Les Musulmans, propriétaires de maisons, chifliks, &c., entre les mains de qui ont-ils laissé leurs propriétés, et comment sont-elles administrées?

Comment l'expropriation pour cause d'utilité publique se fait-elle à Nisch, et les Musulmans qui reçoivent une indemnité à cet effet, sont-ils suffisamment indemnisés. Lorsque les Musulmans ont des réclamations à faire, comment sont-ils traités par les autorités Serbes?

Quel est le degré de sécurité dont les Musulmans jouissent soit à Nisch, soit dans d'autres localités, et peuvent-ils exercer librement leur religion?

Quel est le nombre actuel de mosquées, tékés, et autres fondations pieuses, et combien d'entr'elles ont été démolies?

Entre les mains de qui se trouvent actuellement les propriétés appartenant à ces fondations pieuses? Sont-ce les autorités Serbes que les louent ou les administrent?

Ces propriétés sont-elles louées à un prix raisonnable ou bien à un prix illusoire? Entre les mains de qui se trouve l'argent?

A quelle somme peut approximativement s'élever la valeur totale des biens appartenant à ces fondations pieuses?

Quel est le nombre approximatif des Albanais qui ont quitté le territoire?

Qui a pris possession de leurs biens, et comment sont-ils administrés?

Quel est, à peu près, le nombre, enfin, des Musulmans qui ont quitté le territoire depuis l'annexion à la Serbie, et quelles sont les raisons de cette émigration en masse?

Vous aurez, M. le Consul, à m'informer sur tous ces points, ainsi que sur toutes les questions qui ne manqueront pas de se présenter dès votre arrivée à Nisch.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SERMED.

No. 456.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 174.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, August* 15, 1879.

ON the strength of a statement made by General Vitalis to several persons in this town, the "Philippoupolis" informed its readers, in the accompanying extract, that, after the parade held on the 5th instant in honour of the Sultan's birthday, the officers of the militia had given a dinner to General Vitalis, and had drunk the health of His Imperial Majesty.

Immediately after the appearance of this statement in the "Philippoupolis," two officers of the militia called upon the editor, in the name of their comrades, to refute it, which was accordingly done in the next issue of the local Greek organ.

The officers, however, without perceiving the gravity of the offence which they were committing, continued to insist that the editor should publish the letter of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

In that document, to which the names of seventeen officers (two being from the neighbouring Principality, and the rest Russians) are appended, a declaration is made to the effect that the alleged manifestation, namely, that of drinking the health of the Sultan, "would not have been in harmony with their sympathies and principles, so firmly and frankly marked ('accentués')."

The officers further allege that the feast was given on the occasion of the "name-day" of the Commander of the Training Battalion; whereas, as a matter of fact, that anniversary had occurred two days before.

Lastly, the officers accuse the author of the allegation in question, namely, General Vitalis, of falsifying facts.

By the advice of Baron de Ring, and on the insistance of General Vitalis, the editor of the "Philippoupolis" refused to publish the letter, on the ground that the publication of a document insulting to the Sovereign of this country would render him liable to severe penalties.

The editor has stated to me that the officers who called upon him repaired from his office to the Russian Consul-General for advice and assistance; and I have been credibly informed that Prince Tzeretelew corrected the letter, which the officers, foiled in their attempt to obtain publicity in the "Philippoupolis," succeeded in causing to be published, on the 12th instant, in the local Bulgarian organ.

In that letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a printed copy, and which is stated to have been signed by sixteen officers, whose names the editor holds at the disposal of those whom it may concern, the signatories affirm that they did not drink the Sultan's health on the occasion of his birthday; that their "venerated Sovereign" is the Emperor of Russia; and, lastly, that the statement made in the "Philippoupolis," to the effect that they had drunk the health of the Sultan, is "calculated to compromise their good relations with the wise and patriotic population of this province."

On learning these facts, I lost no time in communicating with my colleagues as to the steps which the Commission should take in the event of the Governor-General failing to vindicate, in an unmistakable manner, both the dignity of his Sovereign and the loyalty of the population of Eastern Roumelia.

After consulting Baron de Ring, I joined my French and Ottoman colleagues in addressing to the President a letter (of which I have the honour to inclose a copy),

requesting him to convoke a meeting of the Commission, on the ground that "the publication of the letter in the 'Maritza' evidenced, on the part of its authors, an entire disregard of their duty towards the territorial Sovereign, and was likewise of a nature to undermine legal order in this province."

M. de Kallay, as well as Prince Tzeretelew, who was present when the letter was handed to the former, insisted that the Commission could not be convoked on those grounds, unless one of the Commissioners deposited a distinct motion; and as, after Prince Tzeretelew's departure, it was urged that a motion of a general character could not meet the requirements of the case, and that a strong motion might have the effect of precipitating a state of affairs (namely, the calling in of Turkish troops) which our respective Governments were not prepared to meet, it was ultimately agreed that an opportunity should be given to me of making a declaration on the subject of the position of foreign mercenaries in the service of the Porte in this province, by convoking a meeting for the purpose of considering a motion which M. de Ring undertook to make respecting the establishment of a Customs service in Eastern Roumelia.

The Italian Commissioner having left for Constantinople on the 12th instant, it was resolved, at an informal meeting of the remaining Commissioners, convoked by M. de Kallay, to transmit M. de Ring's motion to M. Vernoni, with the request that he should name a day when he will be able to attend a meeting of the Commission at Philippopoli.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 456.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of August 6, 1879.

HIER, anniversaire de l'avénement au Trône de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, une salve de vingt et un coups de canon a été tirée.

Le Gouverneur-Général a reçu dans la journée Messieurs les membres de la Commission Européenne, les Directeurs-Généraux, les chefs des diverses communautés religieuses, et quelques notabilités, qui ont présenté à son Excellence leurs félicitations. Les troupes, composant la garnison de notre ville, ont été passées en revue dans la Grande Cour du Conak. Après le défilé, le Général Vitalis a présenté à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, Messieurs les officiers de l'Etat-Major, qui ont formé des vœux pour le bonheur du Souverain.

Un dîner a été ensuite offert au Général Vitalis par tous les officiers qui ont porté un toast à la santé de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Le Général a répondu en portant un second toast en l'honneur de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie pour lui avoir accordé des officiers aussi disciplinés.

Le soir, illumination à tous les édifices publics, sans exception. On a surtout remarqué celle de la résidence du Directeur-Général de la Guerre, et celle du local où sont établis les bureaux de l'Etat-Major.

Inclosure 2 in No. 456.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of August 9, 1879.

HIER, dans l'après-midi, nous avons eu l'honneur de recevoir la visite de deux officiers de la milice. Ils nous ont assuré que, contrairement à ce que nous avons écrit dans le compte-rendu de la fête en l'honneur de l'anniversaire de la naissance de Sa Majesté Abdul Hamid, aucun toast n'a été porté à la santé du Sultan par Messieurs les officiers de l'armée de la Roumélie Orientale.

Tout en attendant, pour la forme, un démenti plus détaillé, nous nous sommes empressés de publier ce qui précède.

Inclosure 3 in No. 456.

Letter addressed to the "Philippoupolis" by Militia Officers.

Monsieur, *Philippopoli, le 27 Juillet,* 1879.

C'EST avec un vif sentiment de méfiance et de mécontentement que nous avons lu dans un article du numéro de votre journal qu'à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de Sa Majesté le Sultan des officiers Russes se seraient réunis et auraient porté un toast à Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Nous ne voulons nous arrêter à combien près cette manifestation supposée aurait été peu en harmonie avec nos sympathies et nos principes, si fermement et franchement accentués. En effet, au jour indiqué une réunion a eu lieu chez le Commandant du Bataillon-Ecole à l'occasion du jour de sa fête. Sauf les toasts portés à quelques-unes des personnes présentes à la fête, il n'y a qu'un que nous nous sommes permis de porter et c'était à Sa Majesté Impériale l'Empereur de Russie, notre vénéré Souverain. On voit bien que de là à ce qui fut relaté dans l'article du journal le "Philippoupolis" il y a loin. Le faux est là flagrant; avait il un but? Il sera facilement deviné. Mais le sans façon avec lequel on a violé le droit de chaque réunion particulière, disons mieux, en famille, est tout-à-fait immoral. Nous sommes fermement résolus de poursuivre énergiquement notre enquête comme quelqu'un qui se voit attaqué dans ce qu'il a de plus cher. Nous nous engageons donc de publier à la suite de la présente le nom de l'auteur de cette comédie inqualifiable, fermement convaincus que votre journal ne peut avoir nul intérêt à cacher la vérité, d'autant plus que c'est le seul moyen de vous ôter toute responsabilité.

(Suivent les signatures de 17 officiers.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 456.

Extract from the "Maritza" of August 12, 1879.

M. le Rédacteur de la "Maritza."

VEUILLEZ avoir l'obligeance de publier, dans votre estimable journal, le démenti suivant:

Dans son numéro du 25 Juillet, le "Philippoupolis" a imprimé un entrefilet où il était question d'un banquet arrangé par les officiers Russes de la milice à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la naissance du Sultan, et où ils auraient porté un toast à la santé de Sa Majesté.

Nous, Soussignés, qui avons tous été présents à ce banquet, déclarons que rien de semblable ne s'y est passé. Les officiers ne se sont réunis chez M. le Capitaine Kolme que pour fêter son anniversaire, et le seul toast qui fut porté, l'a été à la santé de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, notre vénéré Souverain. L'assertion du "Philippoupolis" étant de nature à compromettre la bonne entente entre nous et la sage et patriotique population de ce pays, notre seconde patrie, nous abandonnons à l'indignation publique les auteurs de cette machination. Convaincus que le journal qui s'en est fait l'organe et qui, nous aimons à le croire, n'a nul intérêt à cacher la vérité; usant au surplus du droit que nous avons à une réparation, nous insisterons auprès du "Philippoupolis" pour qu'il publie à la suite de notre protestation aussi le nom de l'auteur de cette indigne manœuvre.

Ce n'est que cette satisfaction qui saurait enlever au dit journal toute responsabilité et arrêter toutes les investigations que nous sommes résolus de mener avec toute l'énergie de gens qui se voient attaqués dans ce qu'ils ont de plus cher, dans leur principe, dans leur honneur.

Agréez, &c.

(Suivent les signatures de 16 officiers, que nous tenons à la disposition de qui de droit.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 456.

Consul-General Michell and others to M. de Kallay.

M. le Président, *Philippopoli, le 13 Août,* 1879.

LE numéro de la "Maritza" d'hier contient une lettre dans laquelle un certain nombre d'officiers de la milice à la solde de cette province, qui fait partie intégrante

de l'Empire Ottoman, protestent contre l'allégation qu'ils auraient porté un toast à Sa Majesté le Sultan à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la naissance de Sa Majesté, et affirment qu'une pareille assertion est de nature à compromettre leur bonne intelligence avec la sage et patriotique population de ce pays.

Considérant que la publication d'une telle lettre prouve, de la part des auteurs de celle-ci, une méconnaissance complète de leurs devoirs vis-à-vis du Souverain territorial, et est de nature à saper l'ordre légal dans la province, les Commissaires soussignés vous prient de convoquer la Commission dans le plus bref délai possible, afin qu'elle puisse délibérer sur les mesures que réclame la situation.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) R. DE. RING.
T. MICHELL.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

No. 457.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 175.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, August* 14, 1879.

THE French Commissioner has requested the President to convoke a meeting of the Commission, at which he proposes to submit the draft of a declaration, to be collectively made, on the subject of the establishment of a customs line along the Balkan frontier.

In the letter of which I have the honour to transmit a copy, and to which a copy of the proposed declaration is attached, Baron de Ring explains to the President the urgency of the measure which he advocates. The absence of a customs line between this province and the neighbouring Principality allows of the introduction over the Balkans of a considerable quantity of Austrian goods which are carried as far as Constantinople without paying any duty, to the prejudice both of the Imperial exchequer and the interests of the nations which trade with the Ottoman Empire by sea.

The establishment of a provincial customs service has hitherto been retarded by a dispute between the local Administration and the Imperial Government as to the composition of that service, the local Administration insisting, as in the case of the posts and telegraphs, that the service should be purely provincial.

The proposed declaration is, however, intended to assert the right of the Porte to appoint officers of its own in order to superintend and control the Customs service, which, in the absence of such officers, might be so organized or conducted as to inflict considerable injury on Imperial interests.

Certain arrangements might, for instance, be made at Bourgas, by which an advantage would be given to the importation of foreign goods by that route to the prejudice of the trade of Constantinople and consequently to that of the Imperial customs.

It is true that, so long as smuggling and every other description of fraud against the revenue is promoted by the present condition of the Imperial Customs Service, Bourgas, with a properly-organized custom-house, would not be able to compete with Constantinople, and, moreover, the cost of overland and railway carriage of goods sent in transit through this province would likewise operate in the same direction.

But, as it is necessary to look forward to a time when the Imperial revenue will be strictly and honestly collected at Constantinople, and as the sum (namely, £T. 5,000 per annum) for which the Ottoman Government has compounded with this province in regard to the customs duties leviable at Bourgas and on the Balkan frontier is so small in relation to the advantage to be derived from stimulating importation at Bourgas and over the Balkans, it certainly appears to be necessary to provide for the establishment of a Customs service in this province on a footing calculated to protect the interests of the Ottoman Empire as well as those of nations trading with it by sea.

On these grounds I shall consider it necessary to give my adherence to the declaration drafted by the French Commissioner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 457.

M. de Ring to M. de Kallay.

M. le Président, *Philippopoli, le 13 Août*, 1879.

DE nombreuses marchandises sont introduites en Roumélie Orientale par les routes qui traversent le Balkan; et, comme le long de cette frontière le service douanière n'a pas encore été organisé, elles n'y acquittent aucun droit. De la Roumélie parties de ces marchandises sont ensuite expédiées à Constantinople, sans rien payer non plus sur cette seconde portion de leur parcours, attendu que le Statut Organique a prohibé l'établissement d'une ligne de douanes entre la province privilégiée et le reste de l'Empire Ottoman. Cet état de choses est non-seulement préjudiciable au Trésor de l'Empire, il place encore dans un désavantage marqué, contrairement aux Traités existants, le commerce des nations qui échangent leurs produits avec la Turquie par la voie de la mer. Par ce double motif, vous estimez avec moi, M. le Président, qu'il doit y être porté un prompt motif.

Quel est le motif qui a empêché jusqu'ici l'établissement d'une ligne douanière le long du Balkan? Si j'en crois les explications que je tiens d'une source autorisée, il faut le chercher dans les dissentiments qui existeraient entre l'Administration de la province et l'Administration Centrale à Constantinople, au sujet du partage de leurs attributions respectives en ce qui concerne le service douanier. Nous nous trouverions donc là, en présence de difficultés analogues à celles que la Commission a eu la bonne fortune de résoudre naguère par rapport aux postes et aux télégraphes.

Cette considération m'engage à vous prier de vouloir bien convoquer la Commission, à l'effet de lui soumettre un projet de déclaration que vous trouverez ci-joint, et qui, dans ma pensée, serait propre à fixer la véritable doctrine de la Commission Européenne sur le point litigieux.

Je saisis, &c.
Le Commissaire de France,
(Signé) R. DE RING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 457.

Declaration.

1. LA disposition de l'Article 19 du Statut Organique, en vertu de laquelle les douanes de la Roumélie Orientale sont réservées à l'Empire, doit être interprétée dans ce sens que non-seulement les Traités, Conventions, lois, et règlements, qui régissent ce service dans l'Empire s'appliquent à la province; mais qu'il doit encore en être de même pour les ordres généraux de service émanant de l'Administration Centrale des Douanes à Constantinople.

2. L'Article 196 doit être interprété de telle sorte que le personnel des douanes en Roumélie fait corps avec celui des autres branches de l'Administration ressortissant du Directeur-Général des Finances de la province, et que les employés des dites douanes sont nommés de la même manière, et par la même autorité que les employés appartenant à ces services.

3. Bien que le produit net des douanes, que l'Article 17 du Statut réserve à l'Empire, ait été, par l'Article 195, évalué à la somme fixe de £T. 5,000 par an, et que, par suite de cet arrangement à forfait, les intérêts fiscaux de l'Empire ne souffriraient pas directement des effets d'une mauvaise Administration des Douanes en Roumélie Orientale, il convient, cependant, de reconnaître à l'Administration Centrale des Douanes Ottomanes le droit d'exercer, par des fonctionnaires à son choix, un droit de contrôle et de surveillance sur les douanes en Roumélie, parce que celles-ci sont destinées à sauvegarder, en outre des intérêts fiscaux des parties intéressées, les intérêts économiques de l'Empire tout entier, aussi bien que ceux de la Roumélie Orientale. C'est une conséquence logique de la communauté douanière établie entre la province priviligiée, et les autres territoires placés sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

4. La position des Inspecteurs nommés par l'Administration Centrale, et leurs émoluments, devront être fixés en vertu d'un accord librement débattu entre le Gouvernement Provincial et l'Administration Centrale des Douanes à Constantinople, à moins que la Sublime Porte préfère prendre leur entretien à sa charge, auquel cas

l'Administration Centrale n'aurait à tenir compte que de ses propres convenances. Cette solution découle du principe de l'Article 195, qui a déterminé à forfait le produit douanier auquel le Trésor Impérial a droit, en faisant peser sur la province les frais de l'Administration.

No. 458.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August 16, 1879.*

I REGRET to say that the present financial prospects of this province are very discouraging.

Owing to the long absence of rain, the principal crops, such as maize, millet, grapes, and tobacco, have almost everywhere failed, and there will, consequently, be a proportionate diminution in the principal item of revenue, namely, that of the tithes, estimated at £T. 120,000, in anticipation of a fair harvest.

The Director of Finance has kindly supplied me with the inclosed estimates of revenue and expenditure for the nine months between the 1st June last and the 1st March, 1880.

They show an anticipated deficit of £T. 201,000; but there is some hope of this amount being reduced by the curtailment of the Budget of the Department of Public Works (to the extent of £T. 50,000), and by savings in the Departments of Justice and Finance, owing to many judicial and financial posts being still vacant. The great expenditure at present incurred in maintaining an unnecessarily large body of militia will also, in all probability, be reduced by the Provincial Assembly.

At the same time, the expenditure for the Department of the Interior (namely, £T. 60,000) has been only roughly estimated by the Director of Finance, his colleague for that Department not having yet been able to supply him with a formal budget.

As regards receipts, M. Schmidt doubts whether the actual revenue will amount to the estimated sum, which has necessarily been calculated on imperfect data, and which will likewise be influenced by the failure of the principal crops. The tax on tobacco in leaf and the excise on manufactured tobacco ("mouroumé"), as well as that on spirits and wine, have been estimated on the basis of the consumption of the previous year, when the presence of about 50,000 Russian troops represented the consumption of about ten times that number of the ordinary population of Eastern Roumelia.

It is feared that, notwithstanding possible reductions of expenditure, the above causes will combine to create a deficit of £T. 150,000 to £T. 200,000, which will have to be covered by the imposition of fresh taxes; although a portion of that deficit (namely, £T. 40,000) can be met out of the provincial funds surrendered by the Russian authorities to the East Roumelian Commission.

The Provincial Assembly will, consequently, be called upon to sanction the imposition of a "Verghi" tax, and M. Schmidt proposes that the latter should fall principally on the real property of towns, the balance being derived from personal property in the form of a modified income-tax.

It is, however, evident that the revenue of this province can only be placed on a sound footing by promoting an increase of production.

The absence of about 150,000 Turkish refugees is necessarily injurious to the economic interests of the province, and the great falling off in the number of cattle kept by the population that is present is likewise a great obstacle to agricultural development.

I am informed that, in many districts, the number of sheep and goats has been reduced to the extent of one-half, while many districts now possess only 20 per cent. of the number of cattle owned by the peasantry before the late war.

It is, however, more than probable that the peasantry have converted the greater part of the stock which has thus disappeared into Russian half-imperials, that will gradually be produced from their hiding-places, in which the peasantry of this province have for centuries past been in the habit of hoarding their ready money.

Nevertheless, the Director of the Department of Finance is of opinion that a sum of 300,000*l.* or 400,000*l.* is absolutely necessary, in order to enable the local Government to make advances to indigent peasants and Turkish refugees, for the purpose of

purchasing cattle and other agricultural stock and implements, with the object of causing the fertile lands of this province to be more largely and efficiently cultivated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 458.

BUDGET of Estimated Receipts, from the 1st June, 1879, to the 1st March, 1880.

	£ T
Beglik, sheep and goat tax (4½ piastres a-head)	50,000
Tithes on agricultural produce (10 per cent.)	120,000
Serdjim, tax on pigs (3½ piastres)	2,000
Woods and forests	4,500
Tax on tobacco in leaf	9,000
,, stamps on tobacco for sale	20,000
Roubsadié, shop licence	1,500
Tax on spirits and wine	9,000
,, licences for sale of spirits and wine	3,600
Stamps	1,800
Customs	9,000
Judicial fees	2,700
Passports	900
Provincial Dominis (fisheries, forests, &c.)	2,000
Salt	10,000
Total	246,000

BUDGET of Estimated Expenditure proposed by the several Departments, for the period between the 22nd May, 1879, and the 1st March, 1880.

	£ T.
Interior	25,000
,, Grants in aid	25,000
,, Sundries (Prisons, Provincial Assembly, &c.)	10,000
Justice	32,000
Finance (including cost of collection of taxes)	43,000
Public Works	110,000
Public Instruction	18,000
Gendarmerie	55,000
Militia	129,000
Total	447,000
Estimated Receipts	246,000
Deficit	201,000

No. 459.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 26.*)

(No. 177.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August 16, 1879.*

AS an illustration of the arbitrary manner in which pro-Russian demonstrations have been organized in this province, I may mention to your Lordship that the Paymaster of the Department of Bourgas has refused to pay the salaries of the local officials unless they submit to reductions varying between 20 fr. and 120 fr., in order to defray the expense of a dinner that was given to General Stolipine on the occasion of his embarkation for Russia.

I have reason to believe that the Director of Finance, to whom complaint was made by the officials in question, has ordered the salaries to be immediately paid in full.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 460.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 26.*)

(No. 178.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August 16, 1879.*

THE local Government has been informed by telegraph that at Messemoria, in this province, the Customs agent was beaten three days ago, and the custom-house pillaged by the Greek population of that town.

The Bulgarian official who represents the Finance Department at Messemoria has refused to serve there any longer, and has requested to be transferred to another post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 461.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 26.*)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 18, 1879.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 45 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Colonel Philippoff has returned to Constantinople, and was present at a meeting of the Commission, of which I am a member, held to-day, when he stated that he had been to Rustchuk and had brought back with him a missing sheet of the map between the Black Sea and the River Gundja, which contains the portion of country traversed by the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

There will now be no further cause for delay in delimitating the frontier from the Black Sea as far as the River Arda, close to the village of Adaeali, and from thence to the affluent Jallazikdere the River Arda itself forms the boundary.

As already reported to your Lordship in Protocols 42 and 44, the Commission accepted from Colonel Philippoff the services of five Russian topographers to survey the line of frontier through the Rhodope mountains, the Turkish Government undertaking to secure their safety whilst employed on their work.

The total distance to be surveyed was about 250 kilom. in length by a breadth of from 5 to 6 kilom.

It was clearly understood by myself and by my colleagues that this work would be laid before the Commission early in August, or, at the latest, by the present date, and this was perfectly feasible, as the survey was commenced along the line between 28th June and the 5th July, and by five skilled topographers should have been completed in about thirty days.

To-day at the meeting Colonel Philippoff declared that the work would not be completed in the field until the 22nd September, and taking into consideration the time necessary to put the surveys together, and from former experience, the faith to be placed in the promises of our Russian colleague, it is very uncertain when the Commission can finally end its labours.

On Colonel Philippoff making his declaration at the meeting to-day, I replied to him, and pointed out that he had promised, in the event of the Commission accepting of the services of his topographers, that our work would be much expedited, and that he would be in a position to lay before the Commissioners the necessary surveys within three to four weeks of our return to Constantinople, and I further pointed out that if the topographers were employed only on the work of the Commission, that more than sufficient time had already elapsed for them to have completed the survey.

Colonel Philippoff excused himself by stating that he never made absolute promises, but only spoke of "probabilities."

At a meeting held whilst in the Rhodope, I had suggested that as each topographer completed his portion, a tracing of his work should be sent to the Commission. Colonel Philippoff objected to this course as likely to retard the execution of the survey; in this he was supported by my colleagues, especially as he then stated that he had eight men at work, and it was inferred in the interest of the Commission.

To-day, in reply to a question put by myself relative to the number of topographers employed being eight, Colonel Philippoff replied, "Eight, but that four only

were working in the interests of the Commission, the remaining four under private instructions from himself."

The Russians are most anxious to obtain a survey of this district, which could never safely be undertaken until the arrival of the Delimitation Commission, when the Turkish Delegate received instructions from the Porte to grant the necessary escorts, interpreters, &c., to the Russian topographers, and, under pretence of working for the Commission, there is no doubt but that Colonel Philippoff has ordered his staff to make a very much larger survey than is required by us.

From Jallazikdere to Mount Cadir Tepe the frontier is clearly defined by a natural feature, and the Commissioners, in conducting their reconnaissance, were most careful in taking the names of all remarkable points; consequently I am personally of opinion that, though it would make it more complete, it is not absolutely necessary to attach a map to the final diplomatic act fixing the delimitation of this portion of the frontier, but from what I gather from opinions expressed by my colleagues, especially those of the Austrian and German, it would appear that their respective Governments are desirous that there should be a map.

I would most respectfully venture to ask your Lordship for instructions, as from the date of my arrival in the country last April up to the present date I regret to say that my Russian colleague has always appeared as if he wished to delay and put off indefinitely the completion of our work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

No. 462.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, August 19*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that an Austrian Commission, consisting of Major Millinkovic of the Staff, and two other officers, Captain Mandic of the Commissariat Department, and Mr. Herkalovic of the Austrian Consulate-General as Turkish Dragoman, left Serajevo this morning for the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, to make arrangements for the entry of the Austrian troops. Neither Husni Pasha nor any of his Staff have accompanied this Commission, having no instructions from Constantinople to do so. The Austrian Commission will, I hear, be met at the frontier by a Turkish escort.

All the garrisons along the present frontier line held by the Austrians, notably at Visegrad, Gorazda, and Foca, have been lately doubled, so that should an entry only in small force be decided on, as advocated, I believe, by Count Andrassy, it may be effected this autumn without delay, and I hear the 1st September frequently mentioned as the date on which the troops are to march. The military party, however, who seem to anticipate armed resistance to the advance of the troops, are in favour of an entry in sufficient force for every eventuality. Should this view of the case prevail, even the occupation of the line of the Lim would probably not take place this year, as a mobilization of troops in Austria would be rendered necessary.

As I have already stated to your Lordship in previous despatches, the question of resistance depends very much on the attitude of the Turkish authorities. If the Porte be really anxious that the late Convention with Austria be carried out without bloodshed, there is very little doubt but that it has sufficient power and influence in the country to enforce its will. Some persons seem to think that though the entry of the Austrians may be effected peacefully, they run a great risk of finding themselves later in a very critical position. They will not be sufficiently strong to disarm the population, and they cannot, I fear, reckon on the assistance of the Turkish troops in this matter.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Würtemburg also left this to-day on a short tour of inspection for Mostar, Nevesin, Gacko, and Foca, and will be back here on the 25th.

I have reason to believe that some of my colleagues take a pessimist view, and have probably written in this sense to their Governments, of the future tranquillity of this province, and more especially of this town. I have even heard it hinted that part of Husni Pasha's mission is to encourage discontent with the present Administration.

This I believe to be a most unjust accusation. His Excellency has apparently abstained from all intercourse with the natives, whether Mussulman or Christian, who on their part have shown no desire to hold communication with him, for fear, I suppose, of compromising themselves in the eyes of the Austrians.

The Mussulmans are, I am well aware, like the rest of the population, far from content with the existing state of affairs, but I do not believe that they entertain the slightest idea of rising in open opposition or insurrection. Not only do they know the futility of any such attempt, but they are also well aware that they could no longer remain in the country without the protection of the Austrian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 463.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 533. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 23*, 1879.

COUNT ANDRASSY has mentioned to me a conversation he had had with the Archduke Albert, which, he said, had given him the greatest satisfaction.

His Imperial Highness had called upon him immediately upon his arrival in Vienna, and had spoken to him of the necessity that there was for Austria to continue the line of policy she had been following in cultivating good relations with England and Germany, exhibiting, at the same time, a distrust of Russia for which, Count Andrassy said, he was not prepared.

I inquired whether he was convinced that the Archduke did not share the wish entertained by a portion of the military party, of which he was regarded as the chief, in favour of advancing towards Salonica.

He replied that in the first place he believed such a policy to be only advocated by a fraction of the military party which was wholly without influence, and that in any case he was certain that it received no countenance from his Imperial Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 464.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 534.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 23*, 1879.

I HAVE asked Count Andrassy whether a statement in the newspapers of an early day having been fixed for the entry of the Imperial troops into the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar was correct.

He said that it was not. Officers had gone to examine the positions, but Husni Pasha, who had shown every inclination to conclude the necessary arrangements, was still hampered by the want of instructions from Constantinople, from whence he was constantly kept waiting for replies to the questions he addressed to his Government.

When I spoke of the necessity of care being taken to avoid attempting to quarter troops in the houses of the Mussulman inhabitants, his Excellency said he was quite alive to it, and this was one of the considerations which made it so essential that no time should be lost in constructing huts or barracks for their reception, which was being delayed by the negligence of the Porte in furnishing Husni Pasha with sufficient authority.

Upon my inquiring if he knew whether the Porte intended to keep garrisons at the places to be occupied, he said that he greatly feared that it did not propose to do so, in spite of the point that had been made of securing the right of joint occupation to the Sultan.

He cared not how small a Turkish force was sent; but if the colours of the two countries were seen together the populations would be convinced of a good understanding subsisting between them.

If Her Majesty's Government could contribute to make the Porte perceive how desirable this is he would feel under an obligation to them.

Count Andrassy repeated that there was no present intention of occupying Bielopolje, where, owing to its proximity to the Montenegrin frontier, the inhabitants are not believed to be well-disposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 465.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 535.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 23, 1879.*

IN Mr. Vice-Consul Dalziel's despatch No. 23 to Mr. Palgrave of the 12th instant, of which a copy is forwarded to your Lordship in Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 743, and sent to me under flying seal, an account is given of the transfer of the Russian Danube flotilla to the Bulgarian Government.

I mentioned the circumstance last night to Count Andrassy, who said that he had been under the impression that these vessels had been sent to Odessa, and he was surprised to hear of their now being at Rustchuk, where their presence was altogether irregular. The Treaty of Berlin had expressly stipulated that there were to be no vessels of war on the Danube, and it behoved the Powers to see that its provisions in this respect were strictly carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 466.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 904. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 25, 1879.*

IN his conversation with me on the 23rd instant, M. Boerescо stated to me confidentially that, when he was in St. Petersburgh, both the Emperor of Russia and M. de Giers mentioned to him the subject of Arab-Tabia.

According to M. Boerescо's account to me, he avoided all discussion of this question with the Emperor and M. de Giers, simply remarking that Roumania would shelter herself behind the Powers, and would bow to their decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 467.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 905.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 25, 1879.*

M. BOERESCO, whom I saw this morning, begged me to express to your Lordship his gratitude for the intimation conveyed to him through me, that you would be happy to meet him at Dieppe, in accordance with the desire expressed by him to have a personal interview with your Lordship.

M. Boerescо intends to leave for Dieppe to-morrow, and to communicate with your Lordship after his arrival there.

I was careful to impress upon his Excellency that, as in your Lordship's opinion his proposals with reference to the emancipation of the Jews in Roumania were not in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, you had been anxious to spare him what might be a fruitless journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 468.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 25, 1879.*

ALL my colleagues are anxious for an adjournment on the ground that the Governor-General takes no notice of their recommendations, and that neither Porte nor any other Power appears willing to interfere effectively in the present course of affairs in this province, and also because that course is not likely to require calling in of Turkish troops to quell disorder. Moreover existing notice of motions can be disposed of in a couple of sittings, after which my colleagues [may] possibly not be disposed to bring forward any others, in consideration of their practical inutility, the Governor-General and Russian influence being paramount.

The French Commissioner will suggest to his Government an indefinite adjournment, and a subsequent convocation, on the initiative of the Porte or any other Power, for the purpose of resuming labours under Article XXIII, or provided condition of affairs in this province should render desirable renewed activity of the Commission.

He also thinks that, as the result of the elections to the Assembly will be disappointing, and will give rise to petitions on part of Greeks and Turks, the Commission had better [? not be referred to] if powerless to afford redress.

The Commission will meet on Wednesday, as the Italian Commissioner arrives on that day.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 469.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26, 1 P.M.)

(No. 633.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 26, 1879, 11·49 A.M.*

COUNT CORTI informs me that he has not any instructions from the present Italian Government with reference to the Greek question, and that he does not consider himself authorized to act on those he received from the previous Government, which were to support line leaving Janina to Turkey.

No. 470.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 26, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

PLEASE send home an exact copy of the signed map of Karaourgan frontier in possession of the Turkish Commissioners, mentioned in Protocol 3.

No. 471.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1104.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1879.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 896 of the 23rd instant, I have to state to you that I have written to M. Boerescо, informing him that I shall have much pleasure in meeting him at Dieppe if he desires it, but that I am convinced that his proposals are at variance with the Treaty of Berlin, and would therefore have willingly spared him a needless journey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 472.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1105.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1879.*

THE French Ambassador called on the 19th instant to state that his Government had received information of steps being taken by Servia to send a Diplomatic Agent to Bulgaria, and *vice versâ*.

He stated that the French Government consider that Bulgaria is not entitled to establish independent diplomatic relations with other Powers whilst she is in the position of a tributary State under the suzerainty of the Sultan, as provided by Article I of the Treaty of Berlin; and that they were anxious to know whether Her Majesty's Government have sent any instructions on the subject to their Representative at Belgrade.

Admiral Pothuau has been informed, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government have instructed Mr. Gould that an Agent from Bulgaria cannot be recognized as having any official or diplomatic position; but that an Agent from Servia to Bulgaria is of course perfectly legitimate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 473.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1107.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1879.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch and its inclosures from Captain Sale, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the new Montenegrin frontier, with regard to the settlement of that portion of the frontier line which lies between the Scutari lake and the sea.

Your Excellency will perceive that, for one section of this frontier, three alternative lines have been proposed, one of which—that put forward by the Turkish Commissioner—has been rejected, but that the votes of the Commission are equally divided between the remaining lines, laid down respectively by Captain Sale and the Russian Commissioner.

I shall be glad if your Excellency will speak to M. Waddington in the sense suggested by Captain Sale, with the view of obtaining instructions to the French Commissioner to vote with his British and Austrian colleagues upon this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 474.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 203.)

My Lord, *Athens, August 14, 1879.*

MELIK EFFENDI, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires, has, in accordance with instructions from his Government, informed the Greek Government that the Turkish authorities in Thessaly have communicated to the Greek Consul at Tricala their determination that henceforth Greek shepherds will not be allowed to pasture their sheep on Thessalian territory, as they have long been in the habit of doing. M. Delyanni considers this proceeding as an arbitrary measure, and at variance with the stipulations of Treaty existing between the two countries. He has determined to defer replying officially to Melik Effendi's communication until the Cabinet has considered the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 475.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 59. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August 16, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 54 of the 28th ultimo, I had the honour to make your Lordship a report on the state of the gendarmerie in Crete. Since writing that report Colonel Allix, who has been sent here to organize the force, but who passed two months in enforced idleness from the want of funds to pay his men, has been travelling over the two westernmost sandjaks, viz., those of Canea and Sphakia. In the former the entire force has been completely paid up, and being assured by his Excellency the Vali that means were now forthcoming to keep them regularly paid, he required every man to sign a contract for two years, binding himself to observe all the regulations of the corps, and to be ready to proceed at a moment's notice to any part of the island to which he was ordered, while he, on his part, promised, on assurances given by the Vali, that they should be regularly paid and decently clad. The men almost unanimously accepted these conditions, and the Colonel retured from this his first tour highly gratified with the results of his visit.

He is now absent on a journey in Apokorona and Sphakia, where he reports himself as less satisfied with the state of the corps. It had been found necessary to dismiss certain officers of police, whose salaries had been disallowed by the General Assembly, and these men, who were very influential, have been getting up demonstrations, and sending scornful and even threatening messages to the Mutessarif of the sandjak. Colonel Allix is deeply impressed with the disrespectful and defiant attitude of the population, and is convinced that he cannot rely upon the zaptiehs to enforce obedience; for while anxious to please the Government which pays them, they are even more anxious not to fall out with the inhabitants from whom they are recruited, and whose sympathies they naturally share. He has made, however, some examples among them, and it is essential that they should express their willingness, like their comrades in Canea Sandjak, to serve in any part of the island.

Seven hundred uniforms, sufficient to clothe nearly half the gendarmes, have been already received and paid for, and will vastly improve the look of the men. It has been wisely decided not to distribute Martini rifles among them, but to leave in their hands the Chassepôts with which most of them are still armed, for fully two-thirds of the new gendarmes are Christians, in whom entire confidence in certain possible contingencies could not be placed. Barring the Sandjak of Sphakia, where discontent may be said to be traditional, and is mainly factitious, the whole of the island is perfectly tranquil, the inhabitants having no grievances which they can, with any show of reason, lay at the door of the Government.

The gendarmerie of the Sandjaks of Rethymo and Candia is not, as I lately reported, in a satisfactory state, for the simple reason that the men are not regularly paid, three months' salaries being now due to them. The question of ways and means is sure before long to make itself painfully felt, in spite of the cession lately made by the Porte to the local budget of the half of the customs dues. The 1,200*l.* a month thereabouts derived from that source hardly suffices to pay the monthly salaries of the police of Sphakia and Canea sandjaks. The proceeds of the tithes on grain will soon be exhausted, and the Government has little to look forward to till next summer, the great source of revenue, that derived from olive oil, being this year almost dried up.

Photiades Pasha told me only yesterday that from the most recent information he had received this important tithe, which in a prosperous season sometimes gives 100,000*l.*, is not expected this year to yield more than 5,000*l.*, the coming olive crop having almost entirely failed. I signalize thus early this lamentable fact, which cannot be too deeply deplored, because nothing seems wanting to insure the peaceful working of the new institutions but an average receipt of taxes, the enormous falling off in which is sure to cause general embarrassment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 476.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 53. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, August* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 52, Political, of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting Captain Everett's departure for his post at Erzeroum, and the information which he has given me relative to the hostile attitude of the Bulgarians towards Major Ardagh's surveying expedition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 476.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 8th and 11th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that Captain Everett, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul for Erzeroum, who has been engaged with Major Ardagh on a special survey of a portion of the Bulgarian frontier in the direction of Egri-Palánka, arrived here on the 16th instant from the above-named place, and will leave this afternoon for Constantinople, and thence proceed to his post at Erzeroum.

Captain Everett states that Major Ardagh's party met with great difficulties and obstruction from armed bands of Bulgarians, and ascribes the hostile attitude of this people to the conduct of a Russian topographical officer, who is also employed in surveying that part of the frontier.

On the other hand, he speaks in terms of high praise of the facilities and attention which were accorded by the Ottoman frontier authorities to the surveying expedition, and mentions in particular the prudent and conciliatory conduct of the Turkish military staff officer who accompanies Major Ardagh (Captain Chereffeddine Effendi).

Captain Everett also informed me that, although Major Ardagh believes that on one occasion shots were fired in his direction, yet he cannot assert positively that they were fired at him, or by Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 477.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 359.)
My Lord, *Rome, August* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 51 of yesterday.

I wrote this morning to Count Maffei, stating that the absence of the Italian Commissioner from Philippopoli was a source of great inconvenience and much to be regretted, and I inquired whether he could not be desired to return at once to his post.

In reply, I have received a note from Count Maffei, stating that—"Vérnoni nous a télégraphié, le 12, qu'une séance prochaine n'étant pas probable, il se rendait, pour quelques jours, à Constantinople. Je vais prier Corti de lui dire de ne pas prolonger son absence, vu que la Commission l'attend pour continuer ses travaux."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 478.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 360. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, August* 20, 1879.

COUNT MAFFEI complained yesterday rather bitterly of the persecution he underwent at the hands of the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Schevitch, who was continually coming to urge the Italian Government in very persistent terms to support the views of Russia in regard to the points which still have to be settled by the different Commissions, especially the frontier near Silistria, and the Montenegrin frontier.

The Italian Government, I am informed by Count Maffei, have accepted the Austrian proposal respecting the former; that is to say, they have notified their willingness that the Commission should again study the possibility of placing the bridge in some other spot than that originally agreed upon unanimously, with the exception of the Russian Commissioner, but on the distinct condition that the verdict of the majority of the Commission was to be decisive, without any reference to the Cabinets.

It would seem that M. Schevitch is now very anxious that the Italian Government should renew their proposal with reference to the Montenegrin frontier, but Count Maffei says he has told him that that proposal, not having been accepted originally, it would not behove the Italian Government to bring it forward again themselves, and that, therefore, the most they could do would be to promise it their support, should it be presented by some other Power.

Count Maffei added that he had told the Russian Chargé d'Affaires that, the questions in dispute in the various Commissions having very little direct interest for Italy, the instructions to their Commissioners were as a general rule to side with the majority.

I observed to Count Maffei that I could not but fear that the representations of the Russian Government must have had some influence upon that of Italy, at all events, in one instance, for I had seen with regret that in the question which had arisen about the control of the port and telegraphs in Eastern Roumelia the Italian and Russian Commissioners had voted together, while the Commissioners of all the other Powers had taken the opposite side.

Count Maffei said that he was not sufficiently acquainted with the circumstances to be able to answer me on this particular point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 479.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 908.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a note, and of its inclosure, which I have received from M. Callimaki Catargi, respecting certain cases of expulsion for vagrancy which have occurred in different districts of Roumania.

I have thanked M. Callimaki Catargi for this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 479.

M. Callimaki Catargi to Mr. Adams.

M. le Ministre, *Paris, le 25 Août,* 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer avec la présente la traduction Française d'une note explicative que M. le Ministre de l'Intérieur de Roumanie a adressé à son collègue du Département des Affaires Etrangères, touchant le caractère et la portée des expulsions pour cause de vagabondage, qui ont eu lieu dans différents districts de Roumanie, et qui ont été représentées, dans la presse Anglaise, comme étant spécialement dirigées contre les Israélites.

Vous verrez par les termes de cette note qu'il y a eu tout au plus une centaine d'individus expulsés, que ces expulsions ont été prononcées en vertu des lois ou des règlements de police applicables à tous, rendus nécessaires par l'accroissement du nombre des vagabonds depuis la dernière guerre, et que les individus qui ont été l'objet de ces mesures appartenaient à des nationalités diverses. Une liste nominale des individus expulsés du district de Vlachka, celui où il y en a le plus, montre qu'ils sont Chrétiens en majorité, quelques-uns même sont Roumains.

Ces mesures, si naturelles et si légitimes, du Gouvernment Roumain, ont été tellement dénaturées que j'ai cru devoir mettre sous les yeux du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la dépêche même de M. Cogalniceano, qui rétablit les faits dans toute leur exactitude.

Je vous serai obligé, M. le Ministre, de vouloir bien communiquer cette pièce au Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères.

(Signé) N. CALLIMAKI CATARGI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 479.

M. Cogalniceano to M. Boerescò.

(Traduction.)

M. le Ministre,

J'AI vu le télégramme de M. l'Agent Diplomatique de Roumanie à Paris, annexé à votre note, et relatif aux mesures prises par le Gouvernment contre le vagabondage. L'Alliance Israélite prétend, comme toujours, que ces mesures sont dirigées spécialement contre les Juifs, et elle cite comme exemple le fait de l'expulsion par l'Administration de Tokchani de chefs de familles établis dans le pays depuis plus de trente ans.

Pour repousser ces insinuations je ne saurais mieux faire que de reproduire les actes officiels extraits des archives de mon Ministère.

Il est vrai que le Gouvernement a dû s'inquiéter du nombre toujours croissant des vagabonds. Un grand nombre était resté dans le pays à la suite de la guerre, et d'autres arrivaient chaque jour du dehors. Il a fallu défendre le passage aux frontières de ces derniers, comme j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de vous en informer par ma note du 21 Juillet dernier. D'autre part, des mesures légales d'expulsion ont été ordonnées contre les gens sans aveu, tant Chrétiens qu'Israélites, qui se trouvaient à l'intérieur, et afin de connaître le nombre, les catégories, et la nationalité des individus expulsés, il a été enjoint aux Préfets d'envoyer des listes nominales à la fin de chaque mois.

Il résulte des renseignements reçus jusqu'à ce jour que le nombre total des vagabonds de différente nationalité expulsés de Roumanie ne dépasse pas le chiffre de 100. En voici le détail: dans le district de Suscara il y a eu trois individus renvoyés en Autriche et deux en Russie. Dans le district de Covurluis, sur 100 arrestations il n'y a eu que cinquante expulsions, et cela parce qu'un certain nombre de vagabonds était pourvu de passeports, dont le terme n'était pas encore expiré. Il y a eu aussi deux expulsions dans le district de Roman, huit dans celui de Dorokoi, un à Prahova, trente-neuf à Vlachka, et deux à Tokchani.

En outre, on a arrêté quatre mendiants dans le district de Falcin, mais ils ont été relâchés jusqu'à l'expiration du terme de leurs passeports à la condition qu'ils ne se livreraient plus à la mendicité sous peine d'expulsion immédiate. D'autres encore, qui avaient été arrêtés dans les mêmes conditions, ont été remis en liberté par suite d'ordre, qui ne permettaient aucune expulsion tant que la nationalité et la catégorie des individus ne seraient pas dûment constatées.

Les faits qui précèdent montrent avec quelle prudence et quels ménagements on procède à l'application de ces mesures, et il convient de noter que, sur une population flottante d'au moins 100,000 individus, presque tous étrangers, c'est à peine, ainsi que je l'ai déjà dit, s'il y en a eu une centaine qui aient été expulsés.

Afin de mieux démontrer combien toute idée de persécution religieuse est étrangère à ces dispositions, j'ai l'honneur de joindre à cette note une liste des individus expulsés du district de Vlachka.

Vous verrez que la majeure partie des individus qui y sont portés ne sont pas Israélites, mais Chrétiens, quelques-uns même Roumains.

Il est difficile de comprendre si l'on ignore notre législation, que de semblables mesures puissent frapper même les Roumains.

Cependant deux Articles de la loi sur la police rurale expliquent ce fait

L'Article 10 défend l'établissement dans les communes rurales des étrangers sans domicile légal; d'autre part, l'Article 108 ne permet de débit des spiritueux dans les communes rurales qu'à ceux qui présentent comme caution un certificat de moralité signé par cinq Notables de la commune, et le Conseil Communal a toujours le droit de repousser cette caution. Ces Articles ont toujours été appliqués et le sont encore sans distinction de nationalité ni de religion. Les Chrétiens étrangers ou Roumains les ont toujours reconnus sans protester. Il n'y a que les Israélites qui, pour obéir aux excitations de leurs coreligionnaires étrangers, réclament sans cesse contre les lois du pays auquel ils prétendent appartenir. Ils ne veulent ni admettre ni comprendre que le vagabondage est prohibé dans tous les pays, et que les gens sans aveu et les mendiants doivent être renvoyés chez eux parce que c'est au lieu d'origine qu'incombe l'obligation de les assister. Toutes ces considérations ne sauraient, je le répète, entrer dans l'esprit d'hommes pour qui la religion tient lieu de patrie, et qui voient une persécution nationale dans le simple renvoi d'un de leurs coreligionnaires à son lieu d'origine.

Ceci me ramène à la publication que signale notre Agent de Paris, et suivant laquelle un nombre considérable d'Israélites laborieux et établis dans le pays depuis plus de trente ans auraient été injustement expulsés par l'Administration de Tokchani. En réalité, il n'y a eu que deux Israélites expulsés, et pour justifier la mesure prise à leur égard, j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser le Rapport ci-joint de M. le Préfet de Putna, en date du 18 Juillet. Vous pourrez vous faire ainsi une idée de la bonne foi des journaux dévoués à la cause Israélite.

En terminant, je vous prie, M. le Ministre, de vouloir bien faire savoir à nos Agents à l'étranger que si le Gouvernement s'emploie à ramener le calme dans les esprits par les mesures d'ordre qu'il a prises contre le vagabondage, il est en même temps décidé à ne tolérer dans l'exécution de ces dispositions aucun abus de pouvoir, aucun excès de zèle.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Ministre,

(Signé) COGALNICEANO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 479.

LISTE des Individus trouvés dans le District de Vlachka sans Occupation et sans Passeports, et qui ont été renvoyés à leurs lieux d'origine dans la période du 10 au 25 Juillet, 1879.

No.	Noms et Prénoms.	Localités où ils ont été trouvés en état de Vagabondage.	Localités d'origine qu'ils ont déclaré et où ils ont été renvoyés.
1	Marin Negru	Dans la ville	Renvoyé à Bucharest au-delà de la frontière de Jamina.
2	André Nanut	" " " " "	" "
3	Nicholas Anasaase	" " " " "	" "
4	Basile Apostol	" " " " "	Renvoyé à Soyli Foresti (Putna).
5	Joseph Selt	" " " " "	" à Roustchouk.
6	Basile Tosu	Commune Primaru (Calnisei) ..	" à Bucharest.
7	Gabriel Radu	Dans la ville	" à Constantinople.
8	Michel Nicolaide	" " " " "	" à Varna.
9	Moise sin David	" " " " "	" à Roustchouk.
10	Chapsu Maeri	" " " " "	" "
11	Georges Basile	" " " " "	" à Constantinople.
12	Moise sin David	" " " " "	" à Bucharest.
13	Pandele Jonesen	Commune Slobozia (Margineа) ..	" "
14	Lazare Tiechenstein	Dans la ville	" "
15	Jean Popa	" " " " "	" "
16	Roman Cumarachesa	" " " " "	" à Roustchouk.
17	Nita Dumitru	" " " " "	" à Ostrov (Grèce).
18	Lambru Panaitidi	" " " " "	" à Roustchouk.
19	Slic Dinu	" " " " "	" en Arabie.
20	Ali Sindo Arab	" " " " "	" à Roustchouk.
21	Enache Zrun	" " " " "	" à Pitesti.
22	Demetri Janase	" " " " "	" à Dudesti (Ilfor).
23	Radu Janos	" " " " "	" à Copaceni Magaserti (Ilfor).
24	Constantin Jean	" " " " "	" à Craiova.
25	Etienne Georges	" " " " "	" à Bucharest.
26	Nicolas Stelian	" " " " "	" à Morrodin (Teleorman).
27	Basile Castrunete	" " " " "	" à Bürzeo.
28	Marin Radu	" " " " "	" à Braila.
29	Joseph Selt	" " " " "	" à Roustchouk.
30	Tanos Scheu	" " " " "	" "
31	Joseph Manos	" " " " "	" en Macédoine.
32	Michel Georges	" " " " "	" en Epira.
33	Georges Floreo	" " " " "	" à Roustchouk.
34	Nicolas Stanguelu	" " " " "	" "
35	Nicolas Tenge	" " " " "	" à Plevna.
36	Jean Pierre	" " " " "	" "
37	Demetri Iran	" " " " "	" à Jassy.
38	Jean Vistal	" " " " "	" à Tamascati (Glavneioe).
39	Constantin Nicolas	" " " " "	"

Le Préfet de Vlachka,
(Signé) J. A. FURDUESCO.

Inclosure 4 in No. 479.

M. Georgesco to M. Cogalniceano.

Le 18 *Juillet*, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI l'honneur de répondre à votre télégramme. Les nommés Elie Comblum et Hersche Sapira ont été arrêtés par la police le 16 courant dans les rues de Tokchani. Leur mise, leur type, et leur ignorance de la langue Roumaine ont fait reconnaitre leur qualité d'étrangers. Aux questions qui leur ont été adressées pour savoir d'où ils étaient et quand ils étaient venus, ils ont répondu par enterprète qu'ils venaient de Galicie et qu'ils se trouvaient dans le pays depuis trois mois. Ils ont présenté en même temps deux passeports Autrichiens portant les numeros 76 et 86 qui étaient dépourvus du visa des Commandants de la frontière. Il a été aussi facile de constater qu'ils étaient entrés en fraude. Ils n'ont pu justifier d'aucun moyen d'existence et n'avaient exercé aucun commerce depuis le 8 Avril, date qu'ils désignent comme étant celle de leur arrivée. Le passeport de l'un indique que le porteur serait commis de magasin; quant à celui de l'autre, il ne porte aucune profession. Aussi, en conformité de l'Ordre Ministériel No. 12,388, ces deux individus ont-ils été envoyés

sous escorte au Préfet de Bacau, afin qu'ils fussent administrativement reconduits à la frontière.

Je crois donc, M. le Ministre, avoir agi dans l'esprit et les limites des instructions reçues par vos notes.

Veuillez, &c.
Pour le Préfet,
(Signé) GEORGESCO.

No. 480.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Boeresco, August 27, 1879.

LA distinction de croyances religieuses ne constituera pour personne en Roumanie un obstacle à l'acquisition et à la jouissance des droits civils et politiques.

Tout étranger, à quelque religion qu'il appartienne, pourra obtenir la qualité de citoyen Roumain, par une loi spéciale et individuelle, après un stage de dix ans, et conformément à la loi sur la naturalisation. Cette loi déterminera les cas d'exemption de stage. Mais il sera inscrit dans la Constitution que ceux qui sont nés et élevés en Roumanie jusqu'à leur majorité, et qui n'auront jamais joui d'une protection étrangère, pourront obtenir la naturalisation, avec dispense de stage.

Les habitants, qui se trouvaient dans la Dobroudja, comme sujets Ottomans, au moment de l'annexion de cette province à la Roumanie, seront considérés comme Roumains et traités sur le pied de la plus parfaite égalité, sans distinction d'origine ou de religion.

Les restrictions, en ce qui concerne le droit des étrangers d'acquérir des propriétés rurales, ne seront point applicables à la Dobroudja.

Le droit d'acquérir des propriétés rurales en Roumanie sera rattaché aux droits politiques, en respectant toutefois les droits des étrangers qui auraient acquis de ces biens en vertu des lois antérieures.

Par un effet rétroactif de la loi sur la révision de l'Article 7, il sera dit dans cette loi que ceux des Israélites actuellement sujets Roumains, qui auraient en leur faveur la présomption de l'assimilation, à la suite de différentes qualités qu'ils posséderaient, seront inscrits sur des listes, indiquant leurs noms et leurs qualités, votés et reconnus comme citoyens Roumains, en même temps que la loi sur la révision de l'Article 7.

No. 481.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 26, 1879.

THE Russian copy of the Protocols was signed before the 12th July, and my colleague assured me on the 7th August that he had already sent them to St. Petersburgh. Will not Giers accept as authentic our printed copy of Protocols, which bears his own Commissioner's signature?

It seems that the Russian Government are desirous of shutting their eyes to arguments in Protocol which are adverse to them, and are bent on substantiating, if possible, their own Commissioner's case.

Miliutiné's object is at one with the endeavour here of the Russians to evade Treaty, whereas our desire is, and always has been, to place an equitable interpretation upon it.

I would submit, as a counter-proposition, that if the Russian Government will accept intersection of the watershed with the parallel of Kara as the point of departure for our work, we, on our side, will engage to consider favourably any proposition with regard to landmarks round Kara not detrimental to the defence of the Ziwin position.

I beg to submit, with all deference, that Lord Dufferin's proposal would not facilitate matters. It leaves out of Court grounds of Commissioner, and as it proposes to take away from the Commissioners the functions to which they have been specially delegated, I do not think that it would be acceptable to them until arguments put forward by the Turkish and British Commissioners have been refuted. Moreover, I think it should be clearly pointed out to the Russian Government that it is not con-

sistent with dignity of the Commission that, on matter in dispute being referred to Governments, any one Government should ignore arguments contained in Protocols, and proceed to propose a private arrangement in a Court to which the Commissioners have no access.

No. 482.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27, 5·15 P.M.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 27, 1879, 3·50 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government again insist that the Montenegrin Frontier Commission should fix marks on ground of disputed line, intimating that they will not recognize a line merely sketched on the map.

Austrian Commissioner has been informed that his Government consider this question to have been already disposed of by the vote of majority, but that if the majority is now of opinion that the Russian proposal should be agreed to, they will make no objection, provided that it is clearly understood temporary marks are to be placed so as to conform strictly with the tracing on map already agreed to by the majority, and that no alteration is to be made as regards the points that were definitively settled.

No. 483.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27, 5·50 P.M.)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 27, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 446, M. Giers will suggest following solution to the Emperor: Commission to lay down upon map the line of the Montenegrin frontier it recommends, together with alternative lines suggested by some members. This map to be referred either to the European Powers or to their Ambassadors at Constantinople, and a majority of voices to decide question.

No. 484.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 97.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 27, 1879.*

M. BOERESCO, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, accompanied by M. Callimaki Catargi, called upon me this afternoon. They brought with them a Memorandum of the changes in the existing legislation of Roumania which the present Government of the Principality is prepared to introduce in order to satisfy the requirements of the Treaty of Berlin in reference to religious liberty. Of this paper a copy is herewith inclosed.

M. Boeresco, after explaining the existing state of the law and the changes he proposed should be introduced in it, enlarged at considerable length upon the difficulties which would attend any immediate emancipation of the whole Jewish population; and still more upon the impossibility of inducing the Roumanians, in their present mood, to make any more extensive concessions than those which his own Cabinet had now authorized him to offer.

I said, in reply, that the consideration which Her Majesty's Government were bound especially to keep in view in this matter, was the duty of satisfying the engagements into which we had entered at Berlin, and I could not hold out any expectation that we should see in the proposals now made by M. Boeresco an adequate satisfaction of those engagements.

The incorporation in the Roumanian Constitution of the language of the Treaty was, in effect, an illusory concession, because, while nominally providing that no one in Roumania should be prevented by his creed from enjoying any social or political right, a large Roumanian-born population, simply on account of their creed, were debarred the facilities for acquiring citizenship which were granted to every one else.

No. 481*.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Barthélemi, August 27.

L'IDÉE de remettre à la Commission de Délimitation Turco-Serbe le soin de rechercher une solution de la question de la frontière à fixer près de Silistrie ayant dû être abandonnée, le Gouvernement Impérial Russe proposerait aux Cabinets intéressés d'envoyer préalablement sur les lieux une Commission Technique, composée d'ingénieurs, pour vérifier le point sur le Danube, qui dans l'opinion du Gouvernement Russe se trouve à l'est de Silistrie et pourrait convenir le mieux à la construction d'un pont, en laissant de côté la banlieue de cette ville. Les conclusions de cette Commission Technique pourraient servir de base à une entente à établir entre les différents Cabinets, pour fixer le point de départ de la frontière depuis le Danube, dont le tracé ultérieur serait confié à la Commission de Délimitation, chargée de ce soin.

The son of German parents, born upon Roumanian soil, was not necessarily a Roumanian citizen. But if he was the son of parents professing Christianity, he might, on his majority, at his option, either remain a German or become a Roumanian citizen. If, on the contrary, he was the son of parents professing Judaism, he had no such option. Under the existing law he could not obtain citizenship at all. Under the proposed law he could only obtain it by virtue of a special legislative measure, to be passed for him in that behalf, which, of course, if the majority pleased, might be refused.

This appeared to me no substantial acceptance of the principles laid down in the Treaty.

At the same time I did not deny the existence of the difficulties to which M. Boerescu had adverted. It might be necessary to exercise caution in admitting at once to the rights of citizenship multitudes who were not in a condition of education or civilisation which would enable them to exercise those rights to the advantage of the community. But I explained to him that what Her Majesty's Government required, and what I believed was required by France and Germany, was not a sudden measure of extensive operation, but the frank and explicit acceptance of a principle, with immediate application so far as was feasible, and a sufficient guarantee that in the future that principle should acquire gradual and more complete effect in practice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 485.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 205.)

My Lord, *Athens, August* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a petition which has been addressed to the French Minister at Athens, to M. Delyanni and myself, from certain inhabitants of Macrinitza, near Volo, complaining of the treatment they are subjected to at the hands of the Turkish Government, who force them to pay taxes which they assert had been remitted.

I have informed them in answer that Her Majesty's Minister at Athens could not interfere in the affairs of inhabitants of the Turkish Empire.

I have, however, forwarded a copy of the petition to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in order that he may take steps, if he thinks proper, to assist these people.

M. Delyanni read to me to-day the agreement which was communicated to him last year by the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, by the 5th Article of which taxes for one year were remitted by the Turkish Government to those who had suffered losses during the insurrection. These are the taxes which, according to the petition, are now being exacted.

His Excellency said that he had instructed the Greek Minister at Constantinople to endeavour to induce Her Majesty's Ambassador to take up the case of these poor people, and obtain redress for them from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 485.

Telegram from Inhabitants of Macrinitza to Mr. Corbett, dated Volo, August 14, 1879.

ARMÉE Impériale ayant envahi notre village pendant dernière révolution causa dommages innombrables en le pillant d'un bout à l'autre comme généralement est connu. Notre Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan reconnaissant alors nos grandes pertes déclara officiellement qu'il nous gratifie impôts année 1878. Pourtant depuis quelque temps nos autorités civiles et militaires commencèrent à exiger payement de l'impôt gratifié, et ces jours-ci autorités militaires ont arrêté une centaine de nos compatriotes et les ont imprisonnés dans caserne Volo, où ils se trouvent actuellement, privés de tout, eux et leurs familles en même temps. Soldats Turcs continuent de longtemps à nous forcer aux corvées, nous et nos animaux, au transport des armes et munition. Ne

sachant Excellence où trouver remède contre cet état de choses nous vous adressons à votre Excellence, en la suppliant d'intervenir auprès de notre Gouvernement du Sultan; et nous protéger contre de si terribles maux ou autrement faciliter notre émigration, car notre situation insupportable.

No. 486.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 208.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 18, 1879.

ALTHOUGH this country is quiet at this moment, and ever since the mediation of the Powers has been promised to bring about a settlement of the frontier question public opinion has shown itself content to wait patiently for the realization of the desire for the increase of territory which it is generally considered was promised at Berlin, there is a wide-spread feeling among all who are acquainted with the sentiments of the Greeks, both in the kingdom and on Turkish territory, that, if they do not acquire the full amount of territory, including Janina, to which they lay claim, very serious results will occur. I do not think that there is any danger of a direct attack of Greece on Turkey, as the latter seems to anticipate, and, as is advocated by some of the more violent Greek politicians, who calculate that, although this country is unable to cope with her neighbour in the field, the Great Powers who protect her would not allow her to be crushed. They are persuaded that, if inferior to Turkey as regards military power, Greece would be able so to influence the Greek population outside the kingdom as to neutralize in great measure the military superiority of the former.

I think, however, that if the hopes of the Greeks are disappointed, public opinion will bring great pressure to bear on the Government, to drive them to action, and to endeavour to obtain by force or *ruse* what they have failed to obtain by negotiation.

It is, I think, certain that the ample means of influencing the Greek population in the Turkish Empire, in Crete, as well as in Thrace and Macedonia, which exist, will be made use of to stir up insurrection there, and although the different Committees in Greece in connection with those populations have at this moment no funds at their disposal, there is no doubt that money would be forthcoming to any amount for such a purpose, if asked for. The Government, even if disposed to look with disfavour on such a movement, would be utterly unable to prevent; but it is far more likely that they would—perhaps not openly—encourage it.

The Greeks, when disappointed of gaining their ends, are disposed more than other people to look for a scapegoat, to bear the blame of their failure, and there is danger in this case that the popularity, if not the position, of the King might be made to suffer in case they fail to obtain what they desire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 487.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 21, 1879.

THE Greek Minister at Constantinople has reported that Safvet Pasha had expressed to him the hope that the first meeting of the Commissioners appointed to settle the Greek question would be held on the 23rd instant.

Three Turkish Commissioners, one of whom is a military man, who has held high command in Epirus and Thessaly, having been appointed, M. Delyanni told me the Greek Government would also appoint another Representative, one holding military rank.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 488.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 634. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 27, 1879.

I HAVE reason to believe that the Sultan has the intention of dismissing Osman Pasha from the Ministry of War, and thinks of replacing him by Dervish Pasha, who has the reputation of being exceedingly corrupt [?]; but a good deal will be gained by the removal of Osman Pasha.

No. 489.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 635.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 27, 1879.

SAFVET PASHA will present to-morrow a Counter-Declaration to that of the Greek Commissioner, in which the Porte agrees to accept the recommendation of the Signatory Powers contained in the 13th Protocol, but with the reservation that it has a right to discuss points of departure from the two seas of line of frontier. The Declaration appears to me ably drawn. Safvet Pasha tells me very confidentially that the Porte will accept the mouth of the Peneus as the eastern end of the frontier-line, but not that of the Kalamas as the western, as any attempt to give Janina to Greece would, he is convinced, lead to most serious opposition on the part of the Albanians.

No. 490.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August* 27, 1879.

THE Turkish Commissioners declared at meeting to-day that the authors of the letter to the "Maritza" showed entire ignorance of elementary duty towards the territorial Sovereign whom they serve, whether their denial be true or false.

I adhered on the ground that all the Signatory Powers were equally interested in upholding the sovereignty of the Sultan in this province.

This is all that will appear in the Protocol, although I explained the true position of foreign officers, and drew attention to militia officers wearing Russian cockades.

No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August* 27, 1879.

AT the meeting Italian Commissioner proposed an amendment on the French motion, forwarded to your Lordship on the 14th instant, respecting establishment of a customs line. Only Russian voted for it, others rejecting it because it was intended to be in entire substitution of original motion. The amendment merely asserted the necessity of establishing, between this province and Bulgaria, a line on which existing Tariffs, and those to be established by agreement with the Principality, shall be levied. I objected on ground also that Article 196 of the Statute provides for latter contingency.

When, afterwards, the President again submitted the original motion, which had been largely discussed, the Italian declared that he would not enter into its discussion; ultimately [he] said he would refer to his Government for instructions.

It is evident that the Italian is entirely bound to the Russian, who naturally objects to French motion, which would give the Porte control over the importation of powder and arms, and generally a superintendence which is necessary in the protection of troops in the Balkan.

Except Russian, all my colleagues are indignant at the Italian having rejected the discussion after entering upon it and losing the amendment.

Whatever may be the Convention with Bulgaria, a customs line will be necessary, as well as Ottoman control, in the interest both of the maritime nations and of the Porte.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 492.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28, 3·40 P.M.)

(No. 638.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 28, 1879, 11·30 A.M.*

MEETING of Commissioners on Greek question postponed until Sunday next.

No. 493.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1879, 5·5 P.M.*

YOURS No. 23.

Unofficial delivery to parties interested will be sufficient.

No. 494.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 45.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 168 of the 9th instant relative to the intended issue of a Decree for the delimitation of the electoral districts.

I approve the representation made by you to Alcko Pasha on this subject, as also of your declaration at the last meeting of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 495.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 49.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 64 of the 25th ultimo, reporting that your colleagues were anxious for an adjournment of the Commission, on the ground that no notice of their recommendations was taken by the Governor-General, and that neither the Porte nor any other Power seemed disposed to interfere effectively in the present state of affairs in the province.

I have this day informed you by telegraph, in reply, that, in my opinion, it might be desirable that the Commission should adjourn as proposed.

It is clear that until the Porte has at its disposal forces sufficient to occupy either Bourgas or the Balkan frontier, no effectual pressure can be brought to bear upon the Governor-General. In the meanwhile, there are no means at the disposal of foreign Powers by which they can exercise any material influence upon his proceedings.

It would be best that the Commission should adjourn until the Porte is prepared to submit to it the drafts of Organic Laws for other provinces of the Empire in accordance with the provisions of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 496.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 45.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 53 of the 12th instant reporting the proceedings at the 26th sitting of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

The proposal made by you in regard to the delimitation of that portion of the frontier which follows the "thalweg" of the Danube is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 497.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(No. 48.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 23 of the 22nd instant, inquiring what steps should be taken by the Commission of which you are a member to deliver to the Governments of Turkey and Bulgaria the Final Act of Delimitation of the Frontier.

I have informed you in reply that, so far as the Commission is concerned, it will, in my opinion, be sufficient that copies of the Final Act should be unofficially delivered to the parties immediately interested in the frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 498.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 66.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 70 of the 10th instant relative to the intended dispatch of the Turkish Commissioner, Chehab Bey, to Batoum, in order to carry out upon the spot the demarcation of the frontier between the Black Sea and Ardwin.

I approve the steps which you have taken to induce the Porte to reconsider their determination on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 499.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 28, 1879.*

GIERS tells me that at last the Protocols of the Delimitation Conferences at Constantinople have arrived, and that they have made very unfavourable impression on the mind of General Milintine, who is in a state of great irritation on the subject, and by whose advice Emperor will be guided. I tried to see General, but failed. I then wrote him a letter to which he has just replied. He wishes you to consider as cancelled the suggestion he made as reported in my telegram No. 129; he says no compromise is any longer possible. As both Giers and Milintine left St. Petersburgh last night with the Emperor, nothing more can be done here with reference to the subject.

The Russians will probably now endeavour to come to an understanding with the Turks as to the point at which the line of delimitation is to strike the parallel of Karaburgan. They will then contend that it is both west and "près," and if it possesses those qualifications the Treaty of Berlin does not entitle us to object to it.

It will be desirable, therefore, that Layard should prevent the Turkish Commissioners from abandoning the position they took up at the Conference when they asserted they had not left crest on which Clarke fixes his point.

I have been shown a map, signed by the Turkish Commissioners, on which the line is represented as leaving the crest and descending towards the river. The sheet stops a little way short of the parallel of Karaourgan. In separate sheet, which is not signed, this line is prolonged in direction it has already taken across the river a short distance up the opposite height. I am afraid that even the signed sheet does not altogether bear out assertion of Turkish Commissioners at the Conference, as on it the line has undoubtedly descended from the crest and bends south-west instead of south.

No. 500.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 67 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 29, 1879.*

THE Governor-General has made a few changes favourable to Greeks in the composition of the electoral districts.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 501.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 29, 1879.*

COMMISSION meets on Tuesday, when I propose calling attention to the fact that justice is not administered in the name of the Sultan, as required by Article VIII.

If your Lordship approves, I propose, before the adjournment of the Commission, to make a declaration on the subject of the illegality of the Gymnastic Society, the members of which assemble with arms for 6,000, contrary to the Statute. It is becoming more and more important to take notice of this fact, since armed Bulgarians ill-treat Turks all over the province, and the Turkish refugees continue to be searched for arms. As a great many Bulgarian outrages are reported from Tatar-Bazardjik, from whence two Turks have come to me to exhibit bayonet wounds, I intend going there on Sunday to inquire into the state of affairs.

No. 502.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 29, 1879.*

REPEATING Lord Dufferin's telegram No. 131 of the 27th August, 1879.

Is Austrian Government prepared to accept the above?

No. 503.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 29, 1879.*

YOURS No. 64.

I think an adjournment might be desirable. No pressure can be brought to bear on Aleko till the Porte has forces at its disposal to occupy either Rourgas or the Balkans. Intermediately it is not possible for foreign Powers to influence Aleko. Commission should adjourn until the Porte is ready with schemes for the other provinces under Article XXIII.

No. 504.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29, 6.30 P.M.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 29, 1879, 4·25 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Government are informed, though not yet officially, that Russia proposes that question of Arab-Tabia should be referred to a Commission of Civil Engineers, who would be able to judge correctly in regard to position for bridge; and that, in the event of their not being agreed to, their reports should be referred to Cabinets, which would decide upon them by majority. Notwithstanding the admission of the majority principle, Baron Orczy regards the proposal with no favour.

No. 505.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 29, 1879, 7·45 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to me a proposal respecting Arab-Tabia. He wishes the site for a bridge proposed by Russia to be surveyed by our engineers, and their conclusions are to furnish the base of an understanding between the Cabinets.

Unless it means that we are to give up to the Russian view, it means nothing at all.

Have the Austrian Government received a similar communication, and what answer do they propose to send?

No. 506.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 568.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 29, 1879.*

I LEARN from Lord Dufferin that it is the intention of M. Giers to suggest to the Emperor of Russia the following solution of the difficulties respecting the settlement of the boundary between Montenegro and Turkey:—

That the Commission should mark out on the map the line of frontier recommended, marking at the same time the alternative lines suggested by dissenting members at disputed points. That the map, so marked, should be referred either to the Signatory Powers, or to their Ambassadors at Constantinople; and that the final settlement of the question should, in either case, be decided by a majority of votes.

I have requested your Excellency to-day, by telegraph, to inform me whether the Austro-Hungarian Government is prepared to accept this proposition.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 507.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 570.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 29, 1879.*

A PROPOSAL for the solution of the Arab-Tabia difficulty has been communicated to me by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, according to which British engineers would be invited to survey the site suggested by Russia for the bridge over the Danube, and the conclusions formed by them would be taken as furnishing the basis of an understanding between the Cabinets.

It appears to me that, unless this proposal means that Her Majesty's Government are to adopt the Russian view of the subject, in preference to that which they have hitherto supported, it cannot practically affect the question at issue.

I have inquired of your Excellency, by telegraph, whether a similar communica-

tion has been made at Vienna, and if so, what answer Count Andrassy proposes to return to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 508.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 54. Political.)
Salonica, August 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to Turkish landowners being hindered by Bulgarian outposts from returning to their properties in the district of Kustendil, in the Principality of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 508.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, August 18, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I am informed by Captain Everett that he received information, during his late visit to Egri Palanka, of the detainment at that place of several Turkish landowners, who are unable to return to their properties at Kustendil in consequence of the obstruction met with at the Bulgarian frontier posts.

I may also add that there are several landowners here from the same district who, for similar reasons, are unable to return to their properties, which, in the meantime, have been appropriated by Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 509.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 55. Political.)
Salonica, August 18, 1879.

My Lord,

HAVING read a letter from Volo, dated the 1st instant, which appeared in the "Levant Herald" newspaper, published in Constantinople, and of which the inclosed is an extract, stating that the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly have been distributing a quantity of Snider rifles to the Mahommedan population in that province, I requested Mr. Longworth to inquire into the matter, and report to me if there is any truth in that statement.

I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of the Report which I have received from Mr. Longworth upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 509.

Extract of a Letter from Volo, published in the "Levant Herald" Newspaper of the 7th August, 1879.

Volo, August 1, 1879.

DURING the past week four more battalions of Nizams have arrived here from Gallipoli, with ammunition, &c. In addition to these, 12,000 boxes of cartridges were brought for the depôt and a quantity of Snider rifles, which have been distributed among the Mahommedans and gipsies, to replace the muskets which were given them

about three years since; cartridges have also been served out. It is impossible that the Government can be aware of the class of persons who, by this means, have had weapons placed in their hands.

Inclosure 2 in No. 509.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Volo, August 14, 1879.

Sir,

IN answer to your despatch of the 12th instant relative to the distribution of Snider rifles among Mussulmans and gipsies, I have to inform you that there is no truth in the statement made in the extract you inclose of a letter from Volo published in the "Levant Herald" of the 7th instant.

As this rumour also reached me on my arrival here I at once made strict inquiries on the subject, and discovered that only some of the Mustaphis stationed at Volo, of whom several are gipsies, have recently had their muzzle-loaders replaced by Sniders and Martinis.

I have no doubt, therefore, that it is this which had set the report in circulation, for many of these soldiers, though under military discipline, wear no uniform whatever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 510.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 60.)
Buyukdéré, August 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Captain Everett arrived here on the 20th instant, bringing the work done by Major Ardagh's party in completion of the western gap in the Russian map. It is very well executed, though done under considerable difficulties, as they were frequently molested by armed bodies of Bulgarian peasants, numbering on one occasion from thirty to forty, who beset their camp and tried to hinder them from proceeding to the frontier-line. According to the evidence of peasants, these people were instigated by one of the Russian topographers employed in that neighbourhood. They also prevented any of the party, or their letters or messages, from passing their frontier-posts, which had been pushed forward considerably in advance of the boundary-line. Their opposition appears, however, finally to have ceased, as the party reached Samakow soon after Captain Everett left it, who came here by way of Salonica.

Major Ardagh informs me, by letter, that Captain Schereffateen, the Turkish officer who accompanied the party, has acted very judiciously, and been of great service to them. They are now encamped on the Cadir Tépé mountain, engaged in laying down the line of water-shed throughout the portion, the absence of which causes the eastern gap in the Russian map.

Captain Everett proceeds to Trebizond to-day for Erzeroum. I beg leave to observe that he placed himself at my disposal for the expedition with the utmost promptitude and good-will, and that his skill as a topographer has been of great service.

The work he brought was laid before the Commission at its meeting yesterday, and approved, having been already made use of for completing the tracing of the frontier-map which will accompany the Act of Delimitation.

No information has reached me as to gatherings of Bulgarian militia or gymnasts on the Macedonian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 511.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 17. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, August 26, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch received by yesterday's mail from the Vice-Consul at St. Maura, reporting that the Greek camp at Lepenus has been definitively broken up, and the troops composing it transferred to more healthy quarters.

2. On the 22nd instant some 200 young men of the reserve, direct from the camp, were disembarked here, pale, emaciated, extenuated in the last degree from fever, scanty rations, and bad water; their appearance on landing excited mingled feelings of disgust and indignation, and the impression thus produced must tell disastrously on any future attempt to organize a force for service in the field on a system of camp training which turned out so signal a failure.

3. Before the camp at Lepenus broke up it is stated that there were 800 men in hospital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 511.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, August 23, 1879.*

REFERRING to my preceding despatch of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that the camps at Lepenus have been broken up this week.

The 5th Foot, together with one battery of artillery and one company of Engineers, returned to St. Maura yesterday, and the 7th Foot embarked for Corfu per "Nauplia" on Thursday evening 21st instant. The other troops were moved back into the cantonments they had occupied previous to the formation of the camps at Lepenus.

Colonel Sapouzakis, commanding the Western Greece Division, established his head-quarters at Missolonghi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 512.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 29, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 53, Count Corti has been informed, in a special despatch, of the conversation between Signor Cairoli and Sir A. Paget (see Sir A. Paget's despatch No. 348). The wording of that document is taken, by the present Cabinet, clearly to imply a return to the principles of a European engagement taken with France at Berlin.

Before furnishing Count Corti with fresh instructions, the Italian Government will see how the question of mediation is dealt with by the other Powers.

No. 513.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 29, 1879.*

HAVE to-day sent by Varna sketch asked for in your Lordship's telegram No. 13, and have indicated on same sketch by a green dotted line the limits within which, in my opinion, concessions, if absolutely necessary, might be granted to Russia.

But I still submit that the point X should be taken as the initial point and basis of the discussion of the Commission with regard to the ulterior trace of the frontier, and the green line should be regarded as a concession, to be made good to Turkey by subsequent compensation.

No. 514.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 29, 1879.*

IS your Lordship aware of a Circular of Giers of 24th July about military route for Turkey? He says the observations of this Commission made on the spot have shown the reason given by Mehemet Ali to be unfounded. Our Commission made no such observations, and came to no such conclusion. He also says he has prescribed to the Russian Commissioner to have nothing to do with the question.

French Ambassador here, and, I believe, the Italian Ambassador, have received this Circular, the text of which I transmit by next post.

No. 515.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 29, 1879.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL complains that Porte has not yet obtained restitution of districts of Kotel [?] and Ichtiman.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 516.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 71. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 29, 1879, 6·45 P.M.*

I LEARN that the Italian Commissioner has declared, in private conversation, that if his Government should instruct him to discuss French motion he would prefer resignation.

It is the opinion of all his [? colleagues], excepting Russian, that he is animated by a personal resentment created by posts and telegraphs decision, which throws him into alliance with the Russian Commissioner, who would otherwise stand quite alone.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 517.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 72 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 29, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

ON my renewed representations the Governor-General has prohibited the searching of Turkish refugees on their arrival here.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 518.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1879.

I COMMUNICATED to Count Andrassy your telegram No. 120, who takes precisely the same view of Russian proposal about Arab-Tabia.

As the proposal is contrary to what Baron Orczy understood, and contains no reference to final decision by majority, Count Andrassy says it cannot even be taken into consideration. If a majority clause is added by the Russians, he will concert with your Lordship on the answer to be returned.

No. 519.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1879.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 131 has been communicated to Count Andrassy, who said that, having only just returned, he was not well enough acquainted with what had been passing upon the Montenegrin Frontier Commission to be able to say at once what he thought of the Russian proposal, but he would examine the question.

No. 520.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram to Michell, repeated to me yesterday, Count Andrassy says that he is inclined to think adjournment of East Roumelian Commission desirable.

No. 521.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 235.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1879, 3·40 P.M.

I REPEAT to you, in my telegram No. 234, a telegram received yesterday from Lord Dufferin. I request your earnest attention to this matter.

No. 522.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Gordon.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1879, 5·5 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 46, you should make every effort to procure the completion of the work with as little delay as possible. The map would, of course, be valuable, but it is a secondary consideration, and would not justify material delay.

No. 523.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Gordon.

(No. 18.) *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 46 of the 18th instant relative to the delay which is occurring in the production of the survey sheets promised by the Russian Commissioner for the use of the Commission of which you are a member.

In reply to your request for instructions as to the course which would be advisable under the circumstances, I have this day instructed you by telegraph to make every effort to secure the completion of the work of the Commission with the least possible delay. It would no doubt be of advantage that a complete map of the frontier should be attached to the Final Act of Delimitation signed by the Commissioners. Provided, however, that the frontier is clearly defined, and so described as to avoid the possibility of mistake, the addition of such a map seems to Her Majesty's Government to be a secondary consideration, which would not justify a material prolongation of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 524.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August* 31, 1879.

NOTWITHSTANDING orders of Governor-General and his Excellency's indignation at Turkish refugees being searched for arms, the Bulgarian population has been largely supplied with rifles and ammunition. The police authorities continue to treat the refugees on their arrival here, and no doubt in other places, in the same shameful manner. They rob the half-starving Turks of their empty leather bags on the plea of their being capable of containing cartridges; they confiscate even their bread-knives; while the relics which a few refugees possess in the shape of an old pistol or antiquated fowling-piece are also seized. The Turkish women are ignominiously searched by hired, and, I am assured, dissolute Bulgarian women in the open day. I find it useless to make any further representations in this cause of justice and humanity.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 525.

Mr. White to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August* 31, 1879.

CONSIDERABLE misconception prevails at Bucharest on account of results obtained by Foreign Minister's interviews, which are described by some as extremely favourable, whilst opposition makes capital by representing the demands of the Powers as quite inadmissible, and to be rejected.

No. 526.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August* 31, 1879.

PRINCE of Montenegro left Cettigné yesterday to be present at Austrian military manœuvres, to which he has been invited by the Emperor.

He will be absent about fifteen days.

I have no doubt His Highness will seek for an opportunity to make known to the Emperor the irritation felt in Montenegro at the Austrian policy with regard to new frontiers of the Principality.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 527.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 73. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August* 31, 1879.

MY Russian colleague left yesterday for Sophia. The Turkish Commissioners think he has a mission to the Prince, but he told me he was going to present his respects.

(Sent to Therapia.)